

THEME LESSONS

Counsellor Edition



Teaching An Effective Bible Lesson

Teaching the Bible lesson is your most important assignment, for it is during this 20–30 minute period that all of your energies focus on “planting seeds” of potential spiritual growth in the hearts and minds of the boys in your cadre. Handling this important assignment effectively is no easy task. It assumes spiritual maturity on your part. It assumes that you come armed with patience, a sense of humour, and the skills necessary to “get under the skin” of a boy growing up today. It assumes that you radiate the joy and thanksgiving of one adopted into the family of God.

God has commissioned you to teach. He has placed in front of you the boys who need to be challenged to accept Christ as Saviour and live a life of thanksgiving. What follows are some principles for teaching effectively.

1. *Remain spiritually full.*

Make sure you remain “plugged in” to that same power that raised Christ Jesus from the dead. In order for a light to stay lit, it must remain plugged in. The same is true for spiritual fullness. You have to remain plugged in.

2. *Don't be a slave to the printed material.*

Know in your own mind what objectives you wish to get across during the lesson and come prepared to meet these objectives! (This, by the way, takes much more than a quick glance at the lesson a few minutes before club.)

3. *It's imperative that you come to club interested and excited about the lesson.*

Slow-moving, uninteresting lessons are reflections on you, not the material presented.

4. *During the lesson, accept correct and incorrect responses in a positive way.*

Show absolute respect for your Cadets as human beings. If someone were to record the way you respond during the lesson, let these phrases characterize your response: “That's a new idea.... Are you going to accept that as

your answer?... I would like more proof.... Do you suppose you could supply a better word?... Can you prove your statement?... Maybe I should rephrase my question.”

5. *Try to draw out comments or thoughts from some of the less vocal Cadets.*

6. *Be sensitive to the feelings of Cadets as individuals.*

Always strive to build in them a positive self-image.

7. *Take full advantage of every moment you are in contact with the boys.*

Be sociable with them. The closer you get to each boy during merit badge and craft activity, the closer you will be able to get to him during the Bible lesson.

8. *Use variety in your approaches.*

Nothing is wrong with a counsellor presentation. Like all approaches, however, this loses its effectiveness after uninterrupted use. Simulations, role playing, games, or plays can serve as effective lesson introductions, or, with some planning, lesson substitutes. Having Cadets, pastors, or other outside people giving occasional presentations adds effective variety. Whatever approach you use, please remember, don't get caught in a rut.

9. *Suggest that your boys bring their own Bibles to club each week.*

Encourage the boys to really use their Bibles — take notes in them, highlight passages, etc.

You need not be a professional educator to teach an effective Bible lesson. In fact, sometimes, no matter what technique you use or how much you prepare, you may judge the lesson noneffective. Good things don't come easily.

During this Cadet season, use your imagination, spend time in preparation, and fervently pray that God will bless your efforts.



IF YOU WOULD LIKE HELP WITH LEADING A BOY TO CHRIST, PLEASE REFER TO THE BACK COVER.

May God go with you as you begin another year of ministry in cadeting!

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Get in the Game is the theme for the 2018 Cadet season.

Lessons 1–23 are based on the book of Mark

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Note

*In the Bible lessons, everything printed in **colour** also appears in the Cadets Manual. Encourage your boys to memorize the “Let’s Remember” Bible verses.*



Theme Discussion

Getting in the Game

DESCRIPTION

This activity can be used as an icebreaker or discussion starter on living the Christian life. In the Bible, Paul frequently illustrated the Christian lifestyle as being similar to running in a race. It's ties in nicely to an Olympics theme as well a general sports related theme.

Materials: None

ACTIVITY

Give boys different sports below to pantomime. Let the rest of the group guess the sports.

Baseball	Basketball	Bobsledding
Bowling	Boxing	Canoeing
Chess	Cross-country Skiing	Curling
Darts	Diving	Downhill Skiing
Football	Figure Skating	Golf
Gymnastics	Horseshoes	Ice Hockey
Kayaking	Luge	Ping-pong
Rapelling	River Rafting	Rock Climbing
Rugby	Skateboarding	Ski Jumping
Soccer	Speedskating	Swimming
Tennis	Track & Field	Volleyball
Waterpolo	Wrestling	Yo-yo

DISCUSSION

What sport best describes your spiritual life and why.

What types of things would keep you from participating in the sport you have chosen.

APPLICATION

In the Bible, our lives are often compared to a race. Our theme verse for the 2016/17 Cadet season is Hebrews 12:1–2. We are instructed in our theme verses to throw off everything that impedes our racing and run with perseverance. In verse 2, we are instructed to fix our eyes on Jesus. In most sports, participants do better and have the stamina they need, when they can visualize the end of the race or winning the game. When we focus on Jesus, it helps us persevere to the end of our lives as we do our best for Him.

This theme discussion and many more can be found at www.creativeyouthideas.com. Used with permission.



LESSON I

Get Set Mark 1:1–13

MAIN OBJECTIVE

Cadets will realize that before Jesus could formally begin His ministry, He and the people had to be prepared.

SECONDARY OBJECTIVES

1. Cadets will see John the Baptist as an advance man, preparing the way for Jesus.
2. Cadets will realize that Jesus faced the same intense temptations that we face.
3. Cadets will understand that Jesus was truly human in every way, sin excepted.

INTRO ACTIVITY

Materials needed: ice (enough cubes for each boy to have one), three candy bar prizes

Since this is probably the first lesson and cadre time, take some time to get to know each other better. Divide the boys into pairs. Give each boy an ice cube. While they are trying to melt the ice, they are to ask each other questions so that they will know each other better. Besides the basic general questions like age, school, siblings, hobbies, tell them to ask for unusual and interesting facts.

When everyone's ice is melted, have the boys introduce their partner and share information about him with the rest of the cadre.

Reward the boy who used the most creative way to melt the ice, the boy who was the quickest ice melter, and the boy with the most interesting introduction.

THEME INTRODUCTION

Rob Foster had worked hard to get a new hockey team to come to Centerville. He had purchased the team and was excited about having professional hockey come to his city. He couldn't wait to see the puck dropped, the skaters flying back and forth across the ice, and goals being scored bringing victory to his team.

But there were details to take care of before the first game. They needed a name and a mascot, so he ran a contest. Then there were uniforms to design and purchase. But most importantly, they needed fans.

Rob put ads in the newspaper and on billboards. He got the local radio stations to promote the team

in exchange for free tickets to give their listeners. Rob put in a lot of advance work getting people ready to support the team.

This season, we will be looking at Jesus' ministry. We will see exciting miracles, listen to His teachings, feel the pain of death, and experience the excitement of His victory. But before it could start, there were things that needed to be done. Let's find out what they were.

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

1. Rob needed to do advance work to get the community ready for his team. Before Jesus began His ministry on earth, His advance man came to get people ready. Who was this man (Mark 1:2–4)? What was his job (vs. 4,7–8)?

The prophet Isaiah had written about a person in the desert preparing a way for the Lord (Isaiah 40:3–4). John the Baptist was Jesus' advance man. He came to baptize and preach repentance for the forgiveness of sins, and to generate enthusiasm for the beginning of Christ's ministry.

2. Were people interested in what he said (vs. 5)?

People from all over Judea and Jerusalem came out to hear John. In spite of (or because of) his unusual mannerisms, people flocked to hear what he had to say.

3. Jesus was getting Himself ready too. What did John do for Jesus (vs. 9)? What unusual things happened during this event (vs. 10–11)?

John was privileged to conduct Jesus' baptism.

Three things happened at Jesus' baptism that marked Him as having an unusual relationship to God.

- a. The heavens opened.
 - b. The Spirit descended like a dove.
 - c. God's voice said, "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."
4. Fill in the missing words from verses 12–13 to see what they tell us.

At once the Spirit sent him out into the wilderness, and he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him.

Read about Satan’s three suggestions in Luke 4:1–12. Tell what they are, why each one might tempt Jesus, and how Jesus responded.

Mark’s account of the temptation of Jesus is brief, but Luke fills us in on the details. It’s important that your Cadets have a general familiarity with these events. See the chart on the bottom of this page for the answers.

5 Why was it important for Jesus to be tempted by Satan? Use the chart to fill in the missing letters to find out what Jesus’ encounter with Satan showed.

	1	2	3	4	5
●	P	H	W	T	O
■	S	E	J	I	V
◈	N	Y	D	M	A
◆	B	T	U	E	R

J	E	S	U	S	H	A	S	B	E	E	N		
3	4	1	5	1	2	5	1	1	2	4	1		
T	E	M	P	T	E	D	I	N	E	V	E	R	Y
4	2	4	1	2	4	3	4	1	4	5	2	5	2
W	A	Y	J	U	S	T	A	S	W	E			
3	5	2	3	5	1	4	5	1	3	4			
A	R	E	—	Y	E	T	W	A	S				
5	5	2	2	4	2	3	5	1					
W	I	T	H	O	U	T	S	I	N	Hebrews 4:15			
3	4	2	2	5	5	4	1	4	1				

In Hebrews 4:15, we learn Jesus needed to be tempted by Satan to show that in every way (sin excepted) He was like us. Talk about the humanness of Jesus: He suffered, He was tempted, and He had the same physical needs and desires we all have.

Ask some specific questions: Did Jesus look like Mary? Did He keep His parents awake all hours of the night? Was He a good athlete, or was He kind of clumsy? Did He ever drop a plate while drying dishes or spill His milk at the table? Did He ever cut a board too short when He helped at Joseph’s shop? Did He have to study hard to do well in school? How human was Jesus? To answer these questions, consult Hebrews 2:17–18 and 4:14–16.

LET’S REMEMBER

Are you ready to meet Jesus this year? We will learn more about Him and the reason He came to earth.

“I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me.”

Malachi 3:1a



(answer chart for question #4)

Satan’s Suggestion	Why This Might Tempt Jesus	Jesus’ Response
1. Make bread out of stone.	Jesus was hungry. He had the power to have food at the snap of His fingers. Satan was hoping that after 40 days, Jesus’ hunger pangs would be more important than His spiritual experience or steadfast character.	Luke 4:4b — “Man shall not live on bread alone” (quoting Deuteronomy 8:3).
2. Worship me, and all these kingdoms will be yours.	Jesus knew that all kingdoms would be His some day. He also knew that He would have to suffer extreme pain to conquer and gain mastery over them. On the surface, Satan’s suggestion looked much easier.	Luke 4:8b — “Worship the Lord your God and serve him only” (quoting Deuteronomy 6:13).
3. Throw yourself down and your angels will protect you from harm.	On the surface, this would appear as one way that Jesus could prove that His Father was watching over Him. Yielding to this temptation would have shown doubt of God’s faithfulness. A person only tests the faithfulness of God when he doubts and no longer trusts Him.	Luke 4:12b — “Do not put the Lord your God to the test” (quoting Deuteronomy 6:16).



LESSON 2

Repent and Believe Mark 1:14–20

MAIN OBJECTIVE

Cadets will recognize that the main focus of Jesus' teaching and ministry can be found in the words *repent* and *believe*.

SECONDARY OBJECTIVES

1. Cadets will develop an elementary, yet important, understanding of the concept of the kingdom of God.
2. Cadets will see that Jesus did not select His disciples because of their power, influence, or wealth. His disciples were chosen because of their response to His calling to *repent* and *believe*.
3. Cadets will be able to personalize who Jesus is in their own lives and what it means for them to repent and believe.

INTRO ACTIVITY

Materials needed: snack for each boy, magazines, and small gifts for each boy

Talk with your church janitor ahead of time and ask if he would let your cadre go through the church sanctuary to pick up papers and straighten song books and Bibles. If that isn't possible, choose some other small chore around church.

To start your cadre time, have available a small snack and a couple of magazines the boys would enjoy looking at. Tell them they have two choices. They may take 5–10 minutes to look at the magazines and munch on the snack, and then you'll be starting your lesson. Or they can choose to follow you and do a small chore and receive a different — possibly better — reward.

After completing your small chore, return to your room (and to any boys who decided to stay). Treat those who followed you with a bigger and better snack, or some other small gift (\$1.00 or under).

Read the *Theme* introduction, and then ask your boys how easy it was to leave something they enjoyed for something unknown. This was the kind of choice facing John the Baptist's followers.

THEME INTRODUCTION

Rob Foster had put a lot of work into introducing his new team to Centerville, but now it was up to the team to prove themselves by their playing skills. Would the people of Centerville think they were worth coming back to watch again?

John the Baptist's task of getting people ready for Jesus was about done. Jesus was beginning His ministry in Galilee. Would the people follow Him now instead of John?

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

1. Jesus needed some men to help Him in His ministry. What kind of person do you think He should look for?

Try to get each Cadet to respond to this question. Their answers will show you what leadership qualities are important to them. They might say guys with strong voices, men who were well-educated, good speakers, good at handling crowds, or good managers.

2. As He began looking for special workers, Jesus bumped into John the Baptist (John 1:35–42).
 - a. Who was with John when he pointed out Jesus?

Two of John's followers were with him. One was Andrew; the other was probably John, the writer of the gospel John.

The two disciples spent the entire day with Jesus. These two close followers of John, without realizing it, were being prepared for the task of being part of Jesus' group of twelve disciples. John was doing his job well!

- b. What did one of them do next?

Andrew was so excited that he looked for his brother (Simon Peter) and told him that he had found the Messiah. How often do we talk with our family and friends about what Jesus means to us?

3. Jesus chose 12 men for His team. Four of these men were selected in Mark 1:14–20.

- a. Who were the four men and what do we know about them?

They were the brothers Simon and Andrew and the brothers James and John.

All four were fishermen. The men Jesus chose for setting up His kingdom were not wealthy, scholarly, or influential. They were people like you and me. Jesus calls men not so much for what (or who) they are as for what He is able to make them become if they obey Him.

- b. What do you think Jesus meant when He said, “I will make you fishers of men”?

Habakkuk 1:14 compares men and fish. It was certainly part of God’s plan that these four disciples were fishermen. People have to be caught out of the flood waters of the world so that they may be brought to know Jesus Christ.

- c. How long did it take these guys to decide to follow Jesus?

Immediately they left the security of their jobs and friends to follow Jesus. Simon, Andrew, James, and John weren’t too sure what being a follower of Jesus meant. They weren’t sure what they were going to face; yet, by faith, they agreed to drop everything and be part of Jesus’ team.

- 4. Jesus’ ministry included a lot of teaching. What two things did He repeat often (Mark 1:14–15)?

Jesus’ message contained the good news from God that the waiting time had ended and the long-expected kingdom of God was at hand. In view of this, men were required to *repent* and *believe*. (Write these two words on newsprint or a chalkboard to keep them in sight and in mind.)

- 5. What do we do when we repent (see Ezekiel 18:30)? In what do we believe (John 4:42)?

We must realize that we are sinful and must ask for forgiveness and proceed in the confidence that we are cleansed through the blood of Jesus. Repentance involves both a plea for forgiveness and a change in lifestyle. Believing in the Gospel or believing in the good news is believing that Jesus died and rose again to take the punishment for all our sins. Jesus’ message to us is as important today as it was 2,000 years ago.

- 6. Jesus did not choose His followers because of their power, influence, or wealth. In the Bible, many ordinary people responded to His call to repent and believe. How about you? Will you follow Jesus and repent and believe?

Find these people who became followers of Jesus.

- | | | |
|---------|------------|-----------------|
| you | outcast | tentmaker |
| blind | children | seamstress |
| doctor | mothers | tax collector |
| beggar | prostitute | demon possessed |
| soldier | fishermen | |



- 7. People had a tough time understanding what Jesus meant when He said, “The kingdom of God is near.” What do you think Jesus meant by it?

The average 9–11-year-old will have a hard time understanding the concept of “the kingdom of God.” Be sure to discuss it with them, however, for it is a very important concept in the Bible. God is, and always has been, a King. Before Jesus came to earth, God’s kingdom had been hidden. Then it was manifested in Jesus. Today the kingdom of God can be seen as the rule of God in hearts of men and in society. Each Cadet who has accepted Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord is part of the kingdom of God!

- 8. In the words of the Cadet hymn, “Living for Jesus,” we pledge (or promise) to give ourselves to Him, strive to please Him in all that we do, and own (have) no other master. What do these promises mean for our lives?

We are promising to give Jesus our lives — our thoughts, words, and actions. We are dedicating ourselves to His work and His kingdom. We can please Him by being obedient to parents, counselors, and teachers.

Go through the first verse of the song and have your Cadets relate what each phrase means to them as they follow Jesus. Close the lesson with prayer, telling Jesus that you want to follow Him, live for Him, and you need His help to do it.

LET’S REMEMBER

“The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!”
Mark 1:15b





LESSON 3

A New Teaching! Mark 1:21–34

MAIN OBJECTIVE

Cadets will begin to understand and recognize the authority of Jesus, shown when even demons reluctantly obeyed Him.

INTRO ACTIVITY

Materials needed: envelope with the words *power, control, hold, influence, smart, expert* in it

Spend a few minutes prior to reading the *Theme* introduction playing a word game.

Rules for game:

1. Divide boys into two teams.
2. Pull a word out of the envelope, count the number of letters in the word, and make the correct number of lines on the chalkboard or large sheet of paper.
3. The teams take turns saying letters that might be in the word.
4. If a team guesses a correct letter, they may try to guess the word.
5. The team that guesses the most words wins.

When the game is completed, write the words as a list on a large sheet of paper or a chalkboard. They will help your Cadets focus on the concept of the lesson.

THEME INTRODUCTION

When your mother gives you a chore that you don't want to do, like taking out the trash, you do it anyway. Why? Because your mother has "authority" over you. She has that authority because she is your mother. Besides obeying your parents, you also have to obey your teachers, ministers, and even your Cadet counsellor. These people have positions of authority.

But what if a total stranger told you to take out his trash? You'd probably respond with something like, "Sorry, I don't have to do what you say," and walk away. A stranger has no authority to tell you what to do.

Once a simple carpenter's Son told people what to do and how to live. Many of them listened. He even commanded evil spirits to come out of people, and they too obeyed Him. That man was Jesus, and if anyone ever spoke with authority, it was Jesus!

Let's take a look at Jesus and His authority.

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

1. What does it mean to have authority?

Use the words from the game to help your Cadets define the word *authority*.

2. A school bully and a college professor both claim to have authority. They are probably talking about two different things. What is the difference?

It's important that your Cadets realize that authority involves more than the results of brute power (bullies). One who speaks with authority is one who knows what he is talking about (college professor).

3. We don't know exactly what Jesus looked like. He probably wasn't a big muscular man. Yet He acted with authority. How did He show His authority in verses 21–27?

Jesus taught the people in the synagogue with such authority that they were amazed. He then showed authority by commanding an evil spirit to leave a man. The evil spirit struggled and left. Jesus didn't even need to touch the man in order to deliver him; Jesus' spoken word was enough! The people were again amazed.

Ask the boys what they think it means to be "demon-possessed." Few Cadets at this age will understand the implication of demon possession. Here is an opportunity to share with them a subject that will be of high interest. Demon possession is a condition in which one or more evil spirits or demons inhabits the body of a human being (Mark 5:9). These spirits can completely control the body. They have strong power (Mark 5:4) and personalities. They can think, speak, and act.

4. Revelation 12:7–9 tells us how the demons inside the man knew who Jesus was. Look up this passage and fill in the missing words.

Then war broke out in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon.... The great dragon was hurled down — that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan,... was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.

Where had they met before?



LESSON 4

Share the Good News Mark 4:1–20

MAIN OBJECTIVE

Cadets will be encouraged to share their faith in Jesus with others.

SECONDARY OBJECTIVE

Cadets will be able to understand and state the meaning behind the details of the parable of the sower.

INTRO ACTIVITY

Materials needed: glow stick for each boy (candles or flashlights may be used instead) and a name tag sticker for each boy

Before your meeting, write “Jesus’ love” or “Love of God” on each name tag. As the boys arrive, give each one a glow stick, but tell them not to bend the glow sticks (to make them glow). If anyone doesn’t know how they work, be sure to explain. Have the boys line up side by side and then turn off all the lights and using just your flashlight or glow stick, place a name tag on the back of each boy. Turn out your flashlight or hide your glow stick and tell them that our world became dark with sin, and we must light it up with God’s love.

Then ask each boy to bend his glowstick and one by one, ask each boy to read what is on the back of a boy that is standing next to him. Tell them that we need each of them to let his light shine so others can see God’s love.

THEME INTRODUCTION

Jeremy and Derek were best buddies. They went everywhere together — including Cadets. Both of them had accepted Jesus into their lives and were trying to live for Jesus in all they did. Jeremy was always going out of his way to tell everyone he met that he was a Christian and that Jesus had changed his life.

Derek had no trouble telling people how his favourite football team was doing and he loved talking about the great vacation his family took, but he just couldn’t bring himself to tell people about Jesus. He really wished he could be more like Jeremy. Let’s see what Jesus had to say about it in today’s lesson.

LET’S TALK ABOUT IT

1. Jesus told the crowd a parable. What is a parable?

Your Cadets who have church backgrounds are probably familiar with the definition of a parable:

“an earthly story with a heavenly meaning.” Jesus frequently told real life stories in His teachings. A parable is also a “picture.” In this picture Jesus compared the kingdom of God and a farmer sowing seed.

2. Jesus told a story about a farmer planting seed. As he threw this seed around, it fell on different types of soil. What were the four types of soil?

What appears to be careless sowing on the part of a farmer is not the case at all. During this time in Palestine, a farmer would sow his seed and then plough it under. Therefore, even though it fell on the path, in the thorns, on rocky ground, or on good soil, the farmer planned to plough that ground and wait for the harvest.

3. Did those listening understand what Jesus was telling them in His parable? Who or what do the parts of this story represent?

It must have been frustrating for Jesus when even His own disciples had a hard time understanding the meaning of His parable.

▶ Who is the farmer?

Even though the sower is not identified, he obviously represents Jesus and all others who proclaim the gospel.

▶ What is the seed?

The seed stands for the Word of God.

▶ The four different places where the seed lands really stand for different kinds of people. Describe each of these types of people.

- 1) The people represented by the path are those who hear the gospel but never react or respond to it. They are so involved in their own interests and desires that they have no time, nor do they feel they need a Saviour. A lot of people are like this. They may be kind, friendly, and fun to be around, but they see absolutely no need for a Saviour.
- 2) The persons represented by the rocky places are those who get hot on the “ideas of the day.” These people emotionally accept the gospel, but when trouble comes or a new idea is presented, they fall away. Some Cadets may have an emotional experience on a campout, but fall away

when life goes back to normal.

- 3) Thorns can choke out the gospel from one’s life. The biggest thorn is our desire for satisfaction through things. If a friend gets something, we aren’t satisfied until we get one, too. We spend more time and energy convincing people (usually parents) that we really need a new phone or tablet, a new eighteen-speed mountain bike, new roller blades, or whatever, but we seldom think about needing a Saviour.
- 4) The good soil signifies those who hear the good news and accept it. Their lives change and produce the fruit of righteous living.

4. What do you think Jesus was trying to teach us in this parable?

The boys will probably respond that Jesus wants us to be good soil. However, this is not the main point of Jesus’ teaching. The focus is the act of sowing (sharing the good news). Verse 8 is the key verse. Jesus is saying, “Hey, Cadets, once you have personally committed your life to Christ, share that good news with the people around you. No matter how much ‘seed’ seems to be wasted on poor soil, don’t be discouraged. In the end, you will have a great harvest.”

Even though Jesus was often misunderstood and many hated Him, He was telling His disciples to look at the present from the perspective of the final abundant harvest.

5. “Sowing seed” is an important part of the Christian life. How can you witness (share your faith) to your friends? Families? Neighbours?

Our witness is both in words and actions. One will not be effective without the other (James 2:18–19). We can be witnesses to our friends by controlling our tempers; fighting temptation; and respecting parents, teachers, and authorities.

6. Why is it hard for you to tell others that you love Jesus and have put your faith in Him?

There is no right or wrong answer. You can expect answers that show their fear of being different, of not being like the rest of the guys, and of being mocked. This is your chance to show them that’s exactly what Jesus went through, and what He expects from those who say they are “living for Jesus.” Also, just like any new thing we try, practice helps us get better. So don’t quit before you start.

Maybe the boys are afraid they won’t know all the answers to the questions their friends may ask. Assure them that the Holy Spirit will be with them and that they can find the answers in their Bibles.

7. Fill in the missing words to read God’s promise to us in Romans 8:18.

I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.

Jesus made it clear that witnessing in His name would not be easy. We learn in Romans that “... our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.”

LET’S REMEMBER

Are you more like Derek or Jeremy? Do you eagerly talk about your sports or computer game victories, and yet hesitate to talk about your relationship with Jesus Christ? Remember that if you don’t share the gospel of salvation with your friend or family member, they may never become a Christian. Then, instead of enjoying heaven for eternity, they will face an eternity of suffering.

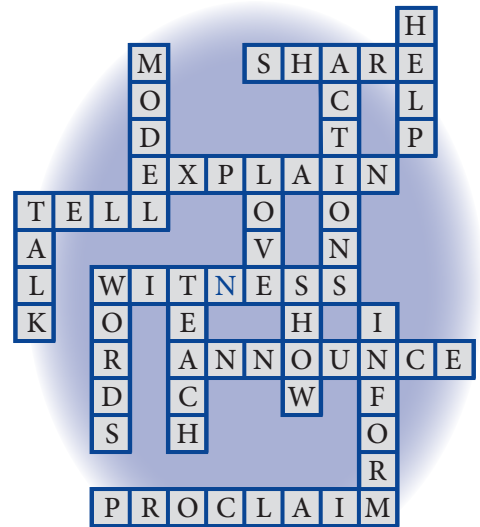
Let this verse be your motto:

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes.

Romans 1:16

There are many ways you can tell your friends and family about Jesus. We have listed a few of them below. Fit them into the puzzle.

- help
- love
- show
- talk
- tell
- model
- share
- teach
- words
- inform
- actions
- explain
- witness
- proclaim
- announce





LESSON 5

Who's Afraid?

Mark 4:35–41

MAIN OBJECTIVE

Cadets will realize that complete trust in God will drive out all fears.

SECONDARY OBJECTIVES

1. Cadets will know the details of the story of Jesus calming the storm.
2. Cadets will be able to list four ways to help eliminate their own fears.

INTRO ACTIVITY

Note: This object lesson would be best split — the first part before the lesson, and the second at the close.

Materials needed: candle and balloons

Before your meeting, fill one balloon with water. Hide this one from your Cadets. At the start of your lesson time, blow up a balloon and light the candle. Explain that the balloon represents a person and the candle represents bad experiences and things we're afraid of. When you hold the blown-up balloon just above the flame of the candle, it will pop. Explain that when we try to handle our fear alone, we're asking for trouble.

At the close of your meeting, take out your candle again and light it. Then take out your water-filled balloon. Tell the boys that this balloon is full of water — representing a person who has Jesus in his life. Hold this balloon over the flame (without touching it) ... and this time it won't pop. Tell them that when we have Jesus in our lives, He protects us. We shouldn't be afraid!

Be sure to practice this before your lesson so you know how close to the flame and how long before the balloon pops or doesn't pop.

THEME INTRODUCTION

- ▶ You are walking alone in a dark woods and you hear a branch snap nearby!
- ▶ You are baby-sitting your sister and your parents won't be home until much later. You hear a strange noise in the basement.
- ▶ You were assigned to read three pages in social studies. You know you should have done it, especially when the teacher says, "Take out a piece of paper and number it from one through ten."

Fear! It strikes everybody. Jesus wants to tell us something about it.

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

1. Share some things that make people afraid. What happened the last time you were really afraid? How did you overcome this fear? Do adults ever become afraid?

Allow the Cadets to share their thoughts freely, accepting any answers they give. Write their thoughts on the chalkboard or on a large sheet of paper, so the boys can see them throughout the lesson.

Sometimes it's hard to get kids to admit that they are ever afraid. To help them along, you may want to share one of your frightful childhood experiences. Don't force a response from the Cadets. Share with them some of the worries and fears of adult life.

2. The Sea of Galilee is about twelve miles long and seven miles wide. Located in a valley, it was one of the best fishing lakes around. Jesus had just finished a long day of teaching and needed to get away. Jesus and His disciples took a boat to the other side of the lake. While they were out on the lake, a storm came up. Describe the storm (vs. 37).

The storm was described as a furious squall. Waves broke over the boat and it was filling with water. It looked as if they were on the verge of going down.

3. What was Jesus doing while the storm was raging (vs. 38)?

Because Jesus had a strenuous day preaching and teaching, He was asleep in the stern of the boat.

4. The disciples seemed to have some good reasons to be afraid. How did they handle their fear?

The disciples handled their fear by waking Jesus, and "chewing Him out" for not being concerned for their safety. And this was in spite of the fact that they — the disciples — were the experienced seafarers.

5. How did Jesus show His mastery over nature?

Jesus rebuked the storm and got *immediate* action. He did not need to repeat His command. Jesus has similar control over any "storms" that come into our lives.

6. What did Jesus then say to His disciples (vs. 40)?

Jesus rebuked the disciples for their cowardice. Help the boys understand that if the disciples' confidence had been in Jesus, even though He was asleep, they would have had no reason to fear.

7. What do we learn about the disciples from vs. 41?

Although the disciples had worked alongside Jesus for some time, and even though verse 34 tells us that Jesus had explained all His teachings to His disciples, they still asked, "Who is this?" They still did not understand who Jesus was or what His mission was here on earth. And they were terrified by what He could do.

8. Fear seems to be part of life, and yet Scripture tells us that fear is unnecessary. Jesus made it clear to the disciples that even though they thought they were in danger, it was unnecessary for them to be afraid.

We can work on eliminating our fears by doing the four things which are written below in code. Fill in the correct letters and learn what you can do to get rid of your fears. (*Hint: Every letter in the code is one letter too far in the alphabet.*)

To decipher the code, write the letters of the alphabet on a sheet of paper. Every letter in the code represents the letter to the immediate left in the alphabet. Example: The word DOG would be coded E P H.

Complete your object lesson from the Intro Activity after the boys fill in this short puzzle.

→ G E T C L O S E T O G O D
H F U D M P T F U P H P E
 (2 Chronicles 16:9a)

→ T R U S T G O D (Philippians 4:13)
U S V T U H P E

→ R E S T I N C H R I S T
S F T U J O D I S J T U
 (Matthew 11:28–30)

→ B E B O L D T O C A L L
C F C P M E U P D B M M
O N G O D (1 Chronicles 4:10)
P O H P E

LET'S REMEMBER

"Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?"
 Mark 4:40

Lesson 5
Who's Afraid?
 Mark 4:35-41

Let's Talk About It

- Share some things that make people afraid. What happened the last time you were really afraid? How did you overcome this fear? Do adults ever become afraid?
- The Sea of Galilee is about twelve miles long and seven miles wide. Located in a valley, it was one of the best fishing lakes around. Jesus had just finished a long day of teaching and needed to get away. Jesus and His disciples took a boat to the other side of the lake. While they were out on the lake, a storm came up. Describe the storm (vs. 37).
- What was Jesus doing while the storm was raging (vs. 38)?
- The disciples seemed to have some good reasons to be afraid. How did they handle their fear?
- How did Jesus show His mastery over nature?
- What did Jesus then say to His disciples (vs. 40)?
- What do we learn about the disciples from vs. 41?
- Fear seems to be part of life, and yet Scripture tells us that fear is unnecessary. Jesus made it clear to the disciples that even though they thought they were in danger, it was unnecessary for them to be afraid.

Let's Remember
"Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?"
 Mark 4:40

Theme Discussion

It is easy to take things for granted or even think that we are owed whatever we get. The truth is that anything we get is more than we deserve, and we need to learn to be grateful. This play should help your boys appreciate how blessed their lives are. Have a short discussion after doing the play using the questions on the next page. Parts Needed: two counsellors.

You Think You've Got Problems!

Devon *(enters)* I hate my life! Nothing is going right. I went to a half dozen stores today and couldn't find a decent pair of gym shoes. Then, my car ran out of gas. And when I pulled out my cell phone, the battery was dead. So I walked to the gas station to get five bucks of gas but their debit machine was down and the cashier couldn't give me change for a twenty.

Josh *(follows, carrying a box full of letters)* Oh, that reminds me. Here's your mail.

Devon My mail. That's all MY mail?

Josh Yes. *(offer the box)*

Devon ALL my mail?

Josh Yes.

Devon There must be a thousand letters in there. *(examines a few)* Hey! They've all got my name on them.

Josh Yes. I said it's your mail.

Devon What's going on? I don't get this much mail in a whole year.

Josh I ran an ad on the internet.

Devon The internet? You ran an ad? And I get mail?

Josh Yes. The ad read, "My roommate is one of the most ungrateful people I know. He has more problems than any three people I know. Would any of you like to have his problems?" And then I listed your problems.

Devon So, what are the letters for?

Josh These are people who would love to have your problems.

Devon I don't get it.

Josh Read one of the letters. *(pulls a letter from box)*

Devon *(opens, reads)* "To whom it may concern. I would love to have your problem of not being able to find new shoes. My family and I have no money. So we are all barefoot. We would love to be able to wear your old shoes." *(looks at envelope)* Where is this from? Bangladesh!? Is this for real?

Josh Yes. Here, read another.

Devon *(opens, reads)* "To whom it may concern. I would love to have your problem of not being able to find new shoes. My feet were amputated." *(looks at envelope)* This is really gross!

Josh Isn't it amazing how many people would love to have the problem of not being able to find new shoes? Here, read another.

Devon *(opens, reads)* "To whom it may concern. I would love to have the problem of running out of gas occasionally. Our nation is in civil war. Our village hasn't had any gasoline for many months." *(looks at envelope)* These letters are from all over the world.

Josh Yes. Here, read another.

Devon *(opens, reads)* "To whom it may concern. I would love to have the problem of running out of gas. I am an itinerant missionary. I travel thirty miles between villages on foot. I would be grateful to have a car to make these trips, even if I ran out of gas occasionally." *(looks at envelope)* This is for real, isn't it?

Josh Yes! Here, read another.

Devon Do I have to?

Josh Yes. It will be good for you.

Devon *(opens, reads)* "To whom it may concern. I would love to have the problem of dead batteries on my cell phone. At least I would have SOME telephone service. My village in the mountains of Guatemala has no phone service at all. I must travel fifty miles to a city with phone service and internet connections."

Josh Yes. Here, read another.

Devon *(opens, reads)* "To whom it may concern. I would love to have your problem of not having change for a twenty dollar bill. I have been out of work for three months, and my family is starving. Twenty dollars would put food on our table for a week." *(looks at envelope)* All right, you've made your point. I am an ungrateful slob. God has blessed my life way more than these people. Compared to them, I have nothing to complain about. I never really thought of it before, but the world would love to have my problems. I never ever thought I would be thankful to have such small problems.

Josh Good for you. *(exits)* Say, you got change for a twenty?

Devon *(follows)* Very funny.

Discussion Questions on next page.

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QUESTIONS:

1. Do you have problems like Devon has? What are they?

Lost homework, having to clean your room, sweep the garage, or cut the grass, parents divorced, etc.

2. Describe people who would like to have your problems.

- Homework — no school here.
- Clean room — families in the Dominican Republic all live in an 8'×10' (2.4 × 3 m) tin “house.” No one has their own room. Many of them share the same “bed.”
- Sweep garage — no garage, no car, no gas, homemade broom to sweep dirt “house.”
- Cut grass — no grass, everything is dirt. No water to grow grass, very little to drink, and must walk a long ways to get water to drink.
- Parents divorced — never knew both parents (single parent all of life), parent(s) died of AIDS.

3. What do you need to do to appreciate the problems you have?

4. What can you do for some of these people who would like your problems?



LESSON 6

It's a Fight! Mark 5:1-20

MAIN OBJECTIVE

Cadets will realize that even though Satan uses his great power to destroy creation he recognizes Jesus' power and fears Him.

MATERIALS NEEDED

- current newspaper
- spool of thread

INTRO ACTIVITY

Materials needed: clean heavy chain

Show the chain to the boys. Ask if anyone thinks he can break it. Tell them that in tonight's lesson, a man in the story could break chains!

THEME INTRODUCTION

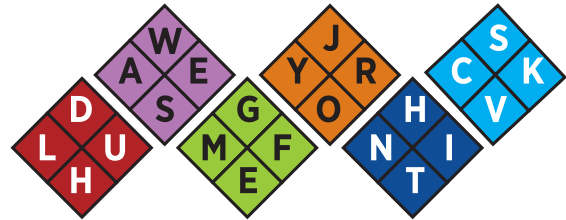
"It's a fight!" These words are heard at almost every school, playground, and neighbourhood. It's difficult to avoid the ugly scenes of a fight these days.

In today's lesson, Jesus got out of a boat and found His worst enemy waiting to meet Him. They exchanged words. It looked like there would be a fight!

Let's see what happened.

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

1. What was unusual about the man who came to meet Jesus (vs. 2)?
The man was filled with an evil spirit. He lived in the tombs and was so strong the people couldn't stop him. All the people of that area were scared of him, so they tried to tie him up with chains, but he just broke them apart!
2. Satan's purpose is to destroy God's creation. How was he destroying this man (vs. 3-5)?
Satan's demons had invaded this man and stripped him of all dignity. The evil spirits had even stripped him of his name and he was called "Legion" (vs. 9). He was a mad man, displaying unusual strength. The evil spirits caused him to cry out and cut himself with stones. There was no way to hold or control him. He lived in the cemetery.
3. Use the code to fill in the missing words of verses 6-7. How did the man behave when he saw Jesus? Do you think that Legion (the evil spirit's name) knew who Jesus was? How can you tell?



J E S U S
When he saw from a distance,
 H E R A N A N D F E L L
 O N H I S K N E E S
in front of
 S H O U T E D
him. He at the top of his
 V O I C E W H A T D O
 Y O U W A N T W I T H
 M E J E S U S S O N O F
 T H E M O S T H I G H
 G O D S W E A R
 ? to God that you
 T O R T U R E M E
won't !

When Legion saw Jesus, he approached Him in a most unusual way. Rather than tearing Jesus apart, he fell on his knees in front of Him.

Ironically, everyone who Jesus met (including His own disciples) had a difficult time understanding who Jesus really was. Legion, however, knew exactly who he was dealing with. Notice he addressed Jesus as "Son of the Most High God" (vs. 7).

4. What did he ask Jesus and what was he afraid of (vs. 7, 10, 12)?

Legion shouted at Jesus, "What do you want with me? Please don't torture me!" Legion knew that, as a result of his evil, some day he would be thrown into the depths of hell. He begged for his life, wanting to stay around for a while.

5. What else did Legion destroy after Jesus sent him out of the man (vs. 13)?

Legion destroyed the herd of pigs that grazed nearby.

6. Describe the man after Legion left him (vs. 15).

He was dressed, regained his dignity, and returned to his right mind.

7. What was the healed man's request (vs. 18)? Did Jesus grant this request? Why or why not?

The healed man begged to go with Jesus, but Jesus had other work for him to do. Jesus told him to go home to his family and tell them the great things the Lord had done for him, so they would believe in Jesus.

8. List evidence showing that Satan still has power today. Remember Satan's destruction was guaranteed when Jesus rose from the dead. What promise do we have when we see Satan's power around us (1 John 4:4)?

Page through a newspaper and point out articles that show Satan's powerful influence. If you didn't bring a newspaper, Cadets can relate both what they hear in the news and particular situations from their lives.

Bring out the thread. Ask for a volunteer. Wrap him once with a piece of thread, and ask him to break it. He should be able to with ease. Then wrap him with it a couple of times and again ask him to break it. Keep repeating, adding a couple of wraps each time. The boys will be surprised how such a little bit of thread can keep them trapped. (Practice this once at home so you know how much thread it will take.)

Explain that the thread represents sin. Each time the thread wrapped around your Cadet, it represented committing that sin once. Each time around, then, was doing it again. Sin very quickly becomes a bad habit that Satan traps us in. The more we sin, the tighter he has us.

Ask your volunteer if he really can't break the thread. Tell him you'll cut the thread and let him go if he just asks. Cut the thread and explain that through Jesus' birth, death, and resurrection, He dealt the fatal blow to Satan and the forces of evil. Satan's tail is still swishing, but the dragon has been slain. Matthew 28:18 records the powerful words of Christ: "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me." We need to recognize that we need Jesus' power in our lives to be free from Satan's control, and then ask Jesus to forgive us and release us from our sins.

Don't be afraid to ask the boys, "Whose side are you on?" Christians know that He who is in us is greater than the one who is in the world (Satan). Therefore, we do not need to fear doing battle with Satan's forces.

LET'S REMEMBER

You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.

1 John 4:4





LESSON 7

The Doctor Is In Various passages from Mark

MAIN OBJECTIVE

Cadets will recognize that Jesus' healing ministry extended not only to men's bodies, but more importantly to their souls.

SECONDARY OBJECTIVE

Cadets will become familiar with five healing miracles of Jesus.

INTRO ACTIVITY

Materials needed: first-aid kit

Show the boys the items in your first-aid kit and discuss how each item will help the one who needs it. Ask the boys if the items in this first-aid kit could heal someone who is deaf, blind, or lame, or who has cancer. Explain that our medicine and knowledge is limited. Tell them that there is no limit to what Jesus can do — He can not only heal physical needs, but He can heal our souls!

THEME INTRODUCTION

If you watch TV for 30 minutes, you feel as though you've seen more advertisements than anything else. They all want you to purchase their products. Everyone, that is, except those in the medical profession. Outside of their names in the yellow pages, few doctors advertise their services.

In many ways, Jesus was a doctor. He didn't heal people in the same way doctors do today. He didn't use X-rays, pills, casts, or surgery. Like most doctors today, Jesus didn't advertise. In fact, often He instructed His patients not to tell anyone how they were healed!

Let's learn about five of Jesus' patients from the book of Mark.

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

(Note: you may wish to assign each of the first five passages to individual Cadets. They will read the passage to find answers to the questions and report the events of the particular miracle assigned.)

1. Read Mark 1:40–45.

- What disease did this patient have? What do you know about this disease (Leviticus 13:45–46)?

The man had leprosy, a progressive disease that deteriorated the entire body and left it scaly, white, and deformed. According to Old Testament law, these people were separated from healthy people and labelled "unclean."

- How did this patient show faith in Jesus?

The man with leprosy had tremendous confidence in Jesus' ability to heal. "If you are willing, you can make me clean."

- Jesus warned him not to tell anyone he was healed. Did the patient obey?

No, he went out and told people wherever he went. Jesus' popularity increased so drastically that He had to limit His activities to the countryside. People still came from everywhere to find Him.

2. Read Mark 2:2–12.

- What was wrong with this man? How did he get to Jesus?

He was paralysed. His friends brought him and lowered him through a hole they made in the roof.

- In what two ways did Jesus heal this man?

He healed him from sin (vs. 5) and He healed him from his paralysis (vs. 11).

- How did the people react (vs. 6,7,12)?

The religious leaders had a problem with Jesus forgiving his sins. Everyone was amazed at the physical healing and they praised God saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"

3. Read Mark 5:25–34.

- Jesus' patient had been sick for 12 years. What was wrong with her?

She had a bleeding problem that doctors could not cure. She was getting worse instead of better.

- Describe the unusual way she was healed.

She touched Jesus' cloak from behind. Ancient belief held that the shadow of a healer, or handkerchiefs and aprons that had touched him, also possessed healing power (Acts 5:15; 19:12). Because of her bleeding, this woman was considered unclean. She approached Jesus from behind to avoid being seen.

- Why was she healed (vs. 34)?
Her act of touching Jesus was an act of faith. She was healed because of this. Even though her faith was small, it was sufficient to release His power to heal.

4. Read Mark 5:21–24,35–43.

- This patient was no longer sick; she was dead. How do we know this (vs. 35,38)?
Men came to Jairus and informed him that the girl was dead so it was pointless to bother Jesus.

When they arrived at Jairus' house, they found the professional mourners already performing the mourning ceremony. (Even the poorest people hired flutists and wailing women when a death occurred.)

- How did Jesus show His power?
He raised this girl from the dead.
- What were His orders to this family?
Jesus told them not to let anyone know. This seems absurd — especially when everyone would know as soon as the girl stepped out of the door. But it's not when we distinguish between the miracle itself and the means by which it was performed. The means could be kept a secret. The miracle could not!

5. Read Mark 7:32–37.

- What was wrong with this man?
This man was deaf and could hardly talk.
- What did Jesus do to heal him?
Jesus put his fingers into the man's ears. He spit and touched the man's tongue, and looked towards heaven with the words, "Be opened!"
- How did the people react?
They were overwhelmed with amazement.

6. These five people had a lot in common. They all had been sick and were healed by Jesus. Each had a hard time not telling the wonderful things that Jesus had done. The greatest thing they had in common, however, was their F A I T H in Jesus Christ. (Fill in the five letter word.)

Because of their faith, all of these people were healed.

7. Jesus cared for people. He disliked disease; it reminded Him of the results of sin in the world. He healed a lot of people during His three-year ministry, but He came to do more than heal physical illness. He came to bring freedom from sin. How did Jesus make this possible?

Who can overcome the power of sin and what must he do to be healed from his sin? Fill in the answer by writing in the letter that fits between the two given below each blank.

 O N L Y T H E O N E
NP MO KM XZ SU GI DF NP MO DF

 W H O B E L I E V E S
VX GI NP AC DF KM HJ DF UW DF RT

 T H A T J E S U S
SU GI ZB SU IK DF RT TV RT

 I S T H E S O N
HJ RT SU GI DF RT NP MO

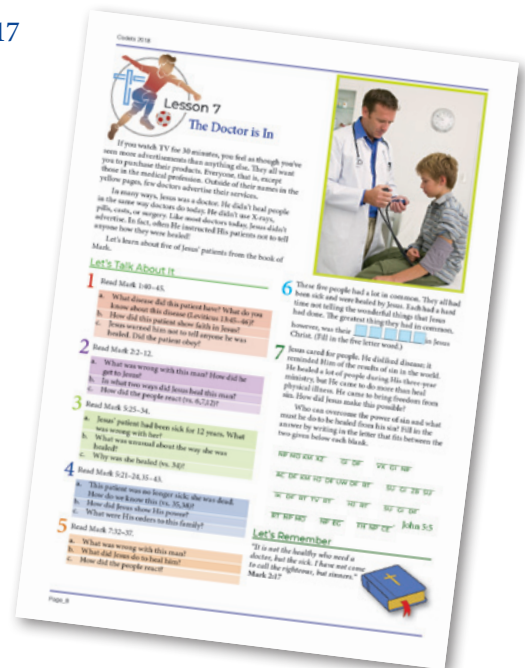
 O F G O D . 1 John 5:5
NP EG FH NP CE

The boys can find the answer to these questions by doing the puzzle.

Jesus' death and resurrection destroyed the power of sin over man. For us to be healed of our sin, we must have faith that Jesus is our personal Saviour with complete power and authority.

LET'S REMEMBER

"It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."
Mark 2:17





LESSON 8

The Bread of Life

Mark 6:30–44; 8:1–21

MAIN OBJECTIVE

Cadets will understand that Jesus Christ is the bread (nourishment) for their souls.

INTRO ACTIVITY

Materials needed: enough kernels of unpopped popcorn to give one to each Cadet, access to a microwave, and a bag of microwave popcorn

Give each boy a kernel of unpopped popcorn. Ask them if this little bit would taste good and if it would fill them up. Show them the bag of microwave popcorn. Ask them if it would be enough (as it is) for all of them to have a nice snack. They'll know that it would be a good snack after it's popped, but not as it is.

Follow the directions and pop your popcorn. Distribute the snack to your Cadets. Tell them that just as microwaving the popcorn made it "grow," Jesus did miracles that made food "grow" to feed hungry people.

THEME INTRODUCTION

Have you ever invited four or five friends over for dinner only to have your mother inform you that she didn't have enough food to feed them? If your mother is like mine, she would say something like, "I need to know ahead of time when you invite that many people for a meal!"

Jesus did something like that twice to His disciples. Both times He was preaching to over 4,000 people, and when He was finished preaching, He told the disciples to feed the people. Imagine the look on the disciples' faces. "You've got to be kidding! That would take a miracle!"

That's exactly what Jesus had in mind.

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

- What is a miracle?
A miracle is a supernatural act of God used to fulfil His will and bring honour and glory to Himself.
- Fill in the chart with appropriate facts for the first miracle recorded in Mark 6:30–44. (Using an NIV Bible is recommended. The numbers in () indicate the column where the answer is to be written.)

Jesus tried to escape the crowd by using a (1) _____. When the crowd followed, He had (6) _____ on them; they were like sheep without a (3) _____.

He asked His disciples to feed them, but they wanted to send the people to the (9) _____ for food because it would cost the disciples 200 (5) _____* to feed them all. The disciples found five (4) _____ and two (10) _____, which Jesus used to feed the people. Following the miracle, the disciples collected (8) _____ baskets full.

**In your NIV, refer to the footnote pertaining to verse 37. A denarii is equal to one day's wages.*

							8				
		2	3	4			T				
		T	S	L			W		9		
		H	H	O		6	E	V		11	
	1				5	C				S	
	B	R	E	A	D	O	F	L	I	F	E
	O	E	P	V	E	M	O	V	L	I	V
	A	E	H	E	N	P	U	E	L	S	E
	T		E	S	A	A	R		A	H	N
			R		R	S			G		
			D		I	S			E		
					I	I			S		
						O					
						N					

- Finish the chart with facts from the second miracle dinner recorded in Mark 8:1–10.

The crowd had been with Jesus for (2) _____ days and had no food left and Jesus was moved to (6) _____. With a few fish and bread, He fed about (7) _____ thousand men. Following this miracle, the disciples collected (11) _____ baskets.

4. What did Jesus do on both occasions before breaking and distributing the bread?

Jesus looked up to heaven and gave thanks for the loaves. Even though all things were created through Christ and belong to Him, He still gave thanks to His Father. How much more ought we, who deserve nothing, to thank God for blessings.

5. Jesus started out with food that would scarcely feed the twelve disciples and ended up with leftovers. What do you think is the meaning of the miracle?

The bread that Jesus passed out symbolized the Word of God which is sufficient for everyone. As Christians, we can share the gospel with everyone and still have more than enough left over. As we “divide” the gospel, it begins to “multiply.”

6. He performed these miracles to teach a lesson, not to impress the crowd. After this miracle, Jesus called Himself the “Bread of life.” What do you think He meant by that (John 6:32–44)?

He is our complete spiritual nourishment. Jesus in our hearts is more important than food in our stomachs. We will never run out of the Bread of life. Jesus is exactly what we need for our spiritual selves, not only for this life, but throughout eternity. When we accept the Bread of life, we will never be spiritually hungry or thirsty again. Jesus is all we need.

7. God still gives us bread today. What is the bread? How does He pass it out?

The bread from God is the spiritual nourishment we receive from the reading and preaching of God’s Word, and from the sacraments. This underscores the importance of attending church to stay spiritually fed.

We also receive physical food from God. He has promised to supply our every need. It is our responsibility to make sure that everyone has this spiritual bread from Jesus, even as it is our responsibility to see everyone has enough physical food.

LET’S REMEMBER

Then Jesus declared, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.”
John 6:35

Lesson 8
The Bread of Life
Mark 6:30–44; 8:1–21

Have you ever invited four or five friends over for dinner only to have your mother inform you that she didn't have enough food to feed them? If your mother is like mine, she would say something like, "I need to know ahead of time when you invite that many people for a meal!"

Jesus did something like that twice to His disciples. Both times He was preaching to over 4,000 people, and when He was finished preaching, He told the disciples to feed the people. Imagine the look on the disciples' faces. "You've got to be kidding! That would take a miracle!" That's exactly what Jesus had in mind.

Let's Talk About It

- 1 What is a miracle?
- 2 Fill in the chart (on the right) with appropriate facts for the first miracle recorded in Mark 6:30–44. (Using an NIV Bible is recommended. The numbers in () indicate the column where the answer is to be written.)
Jesus tried to escape the crowd by using a (1) _____. When the crowd followed, He had (6) _____ on them; they were like sheep without a (3) _____.
He asked His disciples to feed them, but they wanted to send the people to the (9) _____ for food because it would cost the disciples 200 (5) _____ to feed them all. The disciples found five (4) _____ and two (10) _____, which Jesus used to feed the people. Following the miracle, the disciples collected (8) _____ baskets full.
- 3 Finish the chart with facts from the second miracle dinner recorded in Mark 8:1–10.
The crowd had been with Jesus for (2) _____ days and had no food left and Jesus was moved to (6) _____. With a few fish and bread, He fed about (7) _____ thousand men. Following this miracle, the disciples collected (11) _____ baskets.
- 4 What did Jesus do on both occasions before breaking and distributing the bread?

Let's Remember
Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty." John 6:35

Page 9

Theme Discussion

Ready to Serve . . .

At every Cadet meeting, the boys recite their landmarks, including the Cadet Pledge. Most of the boys will have this memorized, and they can say it without even thinking about the words.

Last month we talked about Gratitude. This would be the “thankful to God for his gifts to me” portion of the pledge. This month we will work our way through the rest of the pledge. Each of the lessons will work through two of the components of the pledge: God, my parents, my country, my church, my neighbour and my Corps.

The section between being thankful and what we are going to do about it is the subject of this month’s discussion. “I pledge myself to be ready to serve”

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What does “pledge” mean? A pledge can be a solemn promise, similar to an oath or a covenant. The pledge states what the one party will do and then what the other party will do. It can be set up such that the second party’s actions will only happen if the first party fulfils their part or it could be that the second party gets something if the first party fails to perform what they need to. Examples:
 - 1) If you eat all of your vegetables then you will be allowed to watch TV for an hour.
 - 2) You are expected to finish all of your homework, but if you do not complete the work, you will have to do an hour’s worth of yard work on Saturday.

Leviticus 26 contains a pledge that God made with His people.

 - Verse 12 summarizes what God will do. Do you think that this still holds true today?
 - Verse 3 summarizes what is expected of His people — they are to follow his decrees and obey his commandments. Basically all they need to do is love Him. Do you think that God has changed this pledge for us?
 - How well are you doing on keeping your part of the pledge?
2. This meaning of the word pledge is also used in our pledge to the flag.

“I pledge respect and loyalty to the flag of Canada . . . God protect our country.” How are the parts of this promise the same as the promise between God and the Israelites?

“I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America. . . .” What is the expected return if we do this?

3. A pledge can also refer to what is given to someone to make sure that you complete your part of the deal, like collateral for a loan. When you make your promise, you give something of value that you can get back when you are done. For example: You may give your Cadet counsellor your favourite toy and once you have completed all of your badge work, he will give it back to you. In this case your toy is your pledge or promise that you will do your work.

Exodus 22:25–27 talks about taking a pledge from someone poor.

 - Does God say that taking a pledge is a bad thing?
 - What does God want us to be careful about when we are giving or taking pledges?
4. What do we mean by the word pledge in our Cadet pledge?
 - If our pledge is our promise, what are we promising to do?
 - If our pledge is what we are giving, what are we giving God to confirm we will do what we say?

Jim Elliot was a missionary to the Huaorani people of Ecuador. The people killed him, along with four other missionaries in 1956. He once said, “*He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose.*” Jim knew the dangers of his work, but was willing to pledge his own life to God (you can’t keep your life forever even if you wanted to) and promised to work for Him, in return knowing that God would give him eternal life (something that you can’t ever lose).

Encourage your Cadets to look up Jim Elliot if they are interested in knowing more about his story.

The idea for this discussion is used by permission from Youth Specialties, El Cajon, California.



LESSON 9

Washing Your Hands Mark 7:1–23

MAIN OBJECTIVE

Cadets will understand that the external washing of a man is not as important as being clean on the inside.

INTRO ACTIVITY

Materials needed: one child's sand pail (preferably new), chocolate pudding, gummy worms (optional), crushed chocolate cookies or chocolate graham crackers, bowls, spoons, napkins

Set-up: Dump prepared pudding into the pail and top with crushed chocolate cookies (chocolate graham crackers). You can usually purchase them as crumbs, otherwise crush your own. *Optional:* Add gummy worms to their bowls as they eat their snack. Use a small, clean, new gardening shovel to scoop out the dessert.

Start your meeting by telling your boys that you've brought them a pail of dirt for a snack tonight. Ask if any of them would like a scoop. (If your crushed cookies look like crushed cookies instead of dirt, don't let your boys see the inside! The pail should be enough to get a good reaction.) After their initial reactions, tell them that the dirt you've brought is really a chocolate dessert. Pass out spoons, bowls, and napkins, and shovel out servings to each boy.

As they eat their snack, ask them what they thought when you said you brought them dirt to eat. Would eating dirt make them dirty inside? What kinds of things would they not want to eat? Explain that we're going to look at what makes us dirty inside tonight.

THEME INTRODUCTION

Ryan's mother is fussy about clean hands. "Be sure you wash your hands before you eat!" She must have said it a million times. When Ryan sits down to eat, she always checks for dirt. "I don't want you to eat any germs," she says. Clean hands are sanitary. Washing our hands before eating makes sense.

Hand washing was very important to the Jews when Jesus was on earth. Your hands could be dirt-free, but by Jewish law, you had to ceremonially wash your hands before eating, praying, or after coming in contact with a foreigner. This ceremonial washing showed that your heart was pure. According to the Jewish leaders, it was sinful to skip this ceremony. They were about to learn a lesson.

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

1. Jesus' disciples sat down to eat with ceremonially unwashed hands. Fill in the missing words from Mark 7:5 to see what the Pharisees (the Jewish leaders) did when they noticed.

So the Pharisees and teachers of the law asked Jesus, "Why don't your disciples live according to the tradition of the elders instead of eating their food with defiled hands?"

Instead of confronting the disciples, the Pharisees complained to Jesus, expecting that He would check the disciples and order them to conform. As a rabbi (teacher), Jesus was responsible for the behaviour of His followers.

2. Instead of doing what the Pharisees expected Him to do, Jesus used this incident to teach them (and us) a lesson. He began by calling them hypocrites.

► **What is a hypocrite?**

A hypocrite is one who claims to be something he is not. His actions do not match his words. One who says he is a Christian, but really is not, is a hypocrite.

► **How were the Pharisees hypocrites?**

They based their salvation on showmanship, rituals, and traditions. At the same time, their hearts were full of hate, and their beliefs had wandered far from the truth.

3. Now that Jesus had their attention, He wanted to point out the error in their beliefs. What did Jesus mean in Mark 7:15?

Refusing to go through a ritual doesn't make a person unclean. Jesus was showing them that the condition of a person's heart (clean or unclean) is demonstrated by what he says and does. Jesus told the Jewish leaders not to worry about a silly ceremony. He had nothing against clean hands, but He strongly disagreed with making a religion out of it.

4. What goes into a man doesn't make him unclean; but what comes out does. Give specific examples for the items Jesus refers to in verses 21–22.

- Evil thoughts — Focus on the kinds of things

that would stem from hate, e.g. wanting to get even, hoping that another boy on the basketball team breaks his leg so you can play, plotting to do wrong, etc.

- Sexual immorality — Include dirty books, magazines, or Internet sites, touching someone else inappropriately, fantasies, masculine pride, and sexism. Cadets should be fully aware that we are, body and soul, temples of the Holy Spirit; thus, we must be clean and holy.
- Theft — This is more than “keep your hands off your neighbour’s things.” Everything belongs to God. What we have, He loans to us! Our life, time, abilities, and possessions all belong to Him. In misusing “our” things for “our own” benefit, we are really stealing from God.
- Murder — How do we treat others? Do we hate or love them? Do we hurt them or protect them from harm? Envy, anger, and hate are the root of murder — in fact, they themselves are murderous.
- Adultery — Growing boys need to say “yes” to their own sexuality, God’s gift to them, and “no” to sin-perverted, self-indulgent sex. Sexual intercourse is to be enjoyed only within the bonds of marriage, where it is a joy and a blessing.
- Greed — Do we want more than we need? Examples include grabbing the biggest dessert, rushing for the “best seat,” refusing to share, and the “finders keepers” mentality.
- Malice — Intending to hurt someone, wanting to see someone suffer for no good reason.
- Deceit — A dishonest action or trick. Trying to represent as true what we know is false.
- Lewdness — Dirty jokes, obscene pictures, watching suggestive TV programs, etc.
- Envy — The root cause of murder, envy is the desire to possess something that someone else has and we don’t.
- Slander — Striving to ruin someone’s reputation.
- Arrogance — An overbearing self-pride.
- Folly — Foolishness.

5. How can we be made clean from these evil things inside us (1 John 1:9)?

We know that only the blood of Jesus Christ can wash the inside! He will do this if a man confesses his sin before God, asks forgiveness, turns his life over to Jesus, and follows Him in obedience.

6. Your life shows whether or not your heart has been cleansed. Jesus said, “By their fruit you will recognize them” (Matthew 7:20). How clean are you? Are these clean things in your heart?

(Unscramble these words and find them in the word search.)

nettcon	<u>CONTENT</u>	G		C
shonte	<u>HONEST</u>	V		F
rashe	<u>SHARE</u>	T		S
ruep	<u>PURE</u>	L		U
egorvif	<u>FORGIVE</u>	F		P
frutthul	<u>TRUTHFUL</u>	P		U
blumeh	<u>HUMBLE</u>	R		R
		K		E

Counsellor, this would be a great time to ask if there are boys in your cadre who would like to ask Jesus to wash their sins away. Offer to pray the sinner’s prayer with them either right then or immediately after your meeting. Be sure to follow up on any positive answers!

(If you need help leading a boy to the Lord, see the back cover of this booklet for helpful information.)

LET’S REMEMBER

“Nothing outside a person can defile them by going into them. Rather, it is what comes out of a person that defiles them.”

Mark 7:15

At the close of your lesson, have each boy clean up his dirty napkin, bowl, and spoon. As they toss this stuff in the trash, ask them to think about one thing they’ll do to stay.





LESSON 10

Follow Jesus Mark 8:27–38

MAIN OBJECTIVE

Cadets will know what Jesus meant when He said, “Take up your cross and follow me.”

SECONDARY OBJECTIVES

1. Cadets will identify Jesus as Saviour and Lord of their lives.
2. Cadets will understand that to follow Jesus, they need to imitate Him and follow His example.
3. Cadets will be able to recite the summary of God’s law.

INTRO ACTIVITY

Materials needed: one flashlight, one large paper bag

Put the flashlight in the bag and tape or staple it closed. Set it down and tell the boys they may not pick it up, touch it, etc. They are to only use their eyes and your clues to guess what is in the bag. Tell them that the first person to guess what’s in the bag will get to keep it. Then read them these clues:

- helps you feel secure
- only valuable if filled
- available in a large variety of designs
- fragile
- useful

They will probably not be able to guess (that’s the point), but be prepared to give away the flashlight if someone does. After they’ve guessed or become frustrated with not being able to guess because the clues aren’t clear enough, show them the flashlight. Explain that the clues weren’t very good and ask for suggestions that would have made it easier to guess. Then ask how they would describe Jesus. What descriptions could they use to show who Jesus is?

THEME INTRODUCTION

Can you imagine being a concert violinist without ever practicing? Or making it big in professional sports without hours and hours of hard work and practice? Or going all the way through high school and college successfully without ever studying?

“Good things don’t come easy.” Most people would agree with that, especially if they follow Jesus Christ. Jesus talks about hard work in today’s lesson. Let’s take a look.

LET’S TALK ABOUT IT

1. What did Jesus ask his disciples in verse 27? What were some of the responses?

Jesus asked who people thought He was. The responses included one of the prophets, Elijah, and John the Baptist. These answers showed that Jesus was recognized as someone outstanding, but really no more than that.

2. Jesus asked a more specific question in verse 29. What did He ask? What was Peter’s response?

Jesus specifically asked the disciples who they thought He was. Peter recognized Jesus as the Christ. We feel the excitement of Peter’s response in Matthew 16:16 where Peter adds that Jesus is the “Son of the living God.” Ask the boys how they would answer if someone asked them, “Who is Jesus?” Guide the discussion so that Jesus’ true identity is revealed.

3. Jesus predicted some of the things that would happen to Him because He was the Christ. What did He tell His disciples (vs. 31)?

Jesus first mentioned that He was going to suffer many things. He stated specifically that the religious leaders would reject Him, and He would be killed and would rise from the dead in three days.

4. How did Peter react to Jesus’ predictions (vs. 32)? What was Jesus’ response to Peter?

Verse 32 indicates Peter was still fuzzy about the nature of Jesus’ ministry. Peter rebuked Him for being so pessimistic about the future. Through Peter’s lips, Jesus heard the familiar voice of Satan (vs. 33). It’s frightening to think that a well-meaning disciple could become a tool of Satan. The goal of true discipleship is, indeed, conformity to the divine mind as revealed in Jesus.

5. List the three requirements for those who wish to follow Jesus (vs. 34).

We must deny ourselves, take up our cross, and follow Jesus. This is no luxury walk. There is nothing we can do to make Christ love us any more or any less; however, being on Jesus’ “team” means some hard work.

6. Jesus tells us to take up our cross and follow Him. Let’s see if we can figure out what that means from these verses.

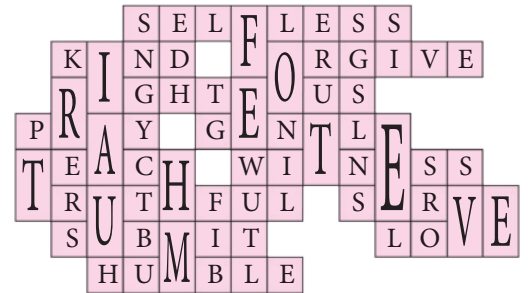
- ▶ **John 14:15 (Cadet verse)** — It means showing our love to God by being obedient to His commandments.
- ▶ **Matthew 22:36–39** — Keeping God’s commandments means loving God with our entire being and loving our neighbour as ourselves. If your boys are unfamiliar with the Ten Commandments, you may want to review them.
- ▶ **Ephesians 5:1–2** — We are to imitate Jesus, living a life of love. The verses that follow this passage give us a list of things that should not be part of our lives if we are following Jesus.
- ▶ **1 Peter 2:21,23** — We are to follow Christ’s example. Jesus withstood insults and much suffering related to His death, but He did not retaliate or make threats. Can your boys say the same? Today, people are too eager to retaliate for anything others have done to them. Are we willing to suffer for someone we know?

7. “Taking up our cross” means standing up for Jesus in front of our friends. This can be very hard to do. Many times Satan gets us to act ashamed of Jesus when we know we shouldn’t. What do these verses tell us?

- ▶ **Mark 8:38** — Satan’s power is reflected later in Mark in the response of the disciples when Jesus was arrested. It happened to them. It can, and too often does, happen to us. If we are ashamed of (or afraid to stand up for) Jesus on earth, Jesus will be ashamed of us when He comes in His Father’s glory. Luke 12:9 says He will disown us if we disown Him.
- ▶ **Romans 8:31–32** — Here we are given a very important reminder: “If God is for us, who can be against us?” God will graciously give us all things, including the strength necessary to overcome the forces of evil.

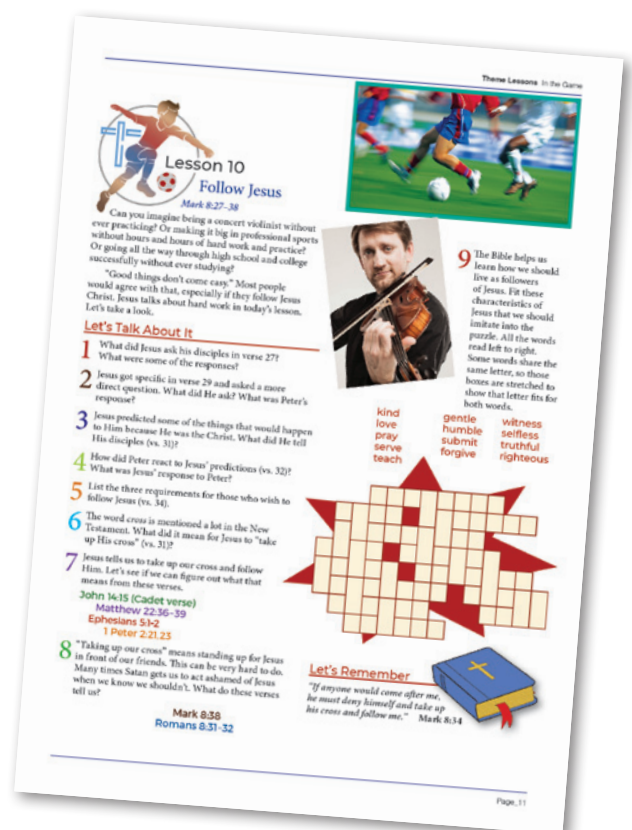
8. The Bible helps us learn how we should live as followers of Jesus. Fit these characteristics of Jesus that we should imitate into the puzzle. All the words read left to right. Some words share the same letter, so those boxes are stretched to show that letter fits for both words.

- | | | |
|-----------|---------|----------|
| kind | gentle | witness |
| love | humble | selfless |
| pray | submit | truthful |
| serve | forgive | |
| righteous | | |
| teach | | |



LET’S REMEMBER

“If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.”
Mark 8:34





LESSON II

I'm the Greatest Mark 9:33–37

MAIN OBJECTIVE

Cadets will understand that greatness in the kingdom of God means being a humble servant of all.

INTRO ACTIVITY

Materials needed: uninflated balloon

Tell your cadre that we are like this balloon — sometimes getting all puffed up with our own importance. (*start blowing up the balloon*) You think you're great and expect that everyone else will agree. (*blow a little more*) You think you're good-looking. (*blow more*) Maybe you're really smart. (*blow more*) Or you're really good at sports — you're the star! (*blow more*) You are the best singer in the whole choir. (*blow more*) You're really popular and everyone wants to be your friend ... etc. Blow the balloon after each prideful statement until the balloon pops. If you prefer to not have it pop as you blow it, hide a thumbtack in your hand and pop the balloon with it at the right moment.

End with the statement: If we keep on puffing up our own self-importance, something will happen to pop our balloons of pride. Jesus has a different definition of greatness — let's get into the lesson to see what He has to say.

THEME INTRODUCTION

Who's the greatest? Some think that the fastest, the strongest, and the ones who scored the most points are the greatest. If LeBron James would say that he's the greatest player in the history of basketball, some people might consider him conceited. Others would agree with him and say that he's just telling it like it is.

Most sports depend on someone or some team being "number one." Without competition and a battle for the championship, most people would lose interest in sports. As a result, athletes grow up wanting to be #1.

The desire to be #1 is found in many areas. People like being important; they feel good when they know they are better than someone else. Jesus talks to us about this. Let's take a look.

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

1. Name the person who you think is one of the best ever in your favourite sport. Why did you select that person?

Have each Cadet respond to this question. If they aren't into sports, have them choose something else (i.e., artist, author, inventor). Get Cadets to focus on how the world defines *greatness* (superior skills, ability to demand a large salary, etc.).

2. If you were going to select the greatest student, what would that person be like?

Answers will again vary on this one. No response is incorrect. Again, the focus is on the world's definitions of greatness.

3. Define what the word *pride* means. What is the opposite of pride?

Pride is an overly high opinion of oneself. Other words that suggest pride include *sneer, stiff-necked, stuck-up, ego, conceit, vain, brag, overbearing, puffed-up, big shot*. The opposite of pride is humility, or humbleness.

4. While the disciples were walking to Capernaum, they were arguing among themselves. Jesus later asked them what they had argued about. Fill in the missing words from verse 34 to see how they responded.

But they kept quiet because on the way they had argued about who was the greatest.

The disciples were arguing about who was the greatest. The disciples were defining *greatest* the same way the dictionary defines it — the highest quality; the best in the class; the most important.

5. Jesus had to straighten these guys out. He defines *greatness* quite a bit differently. What can we learn from Jesus regarding greatness.

- John 13:5,12–17
- Mark 9:35
- Mark 10:42–45

The greatest is one who serves (Mark 10:42–45). Washing dirty feet at supper time would turn many people's stomachs, but Jesus humbly did it (John 13)! In Mark 9:35, Jesus said that those who are great are those who put others first, being a servant to all. The kingdom of God has no room for people who continually boast about how great they are. The boys need to understand the concepts of servant hood, humility, and love.

6. You have discovered a big difference between the dictionary definition of greatness and Jesus' definition. Who is the greatest person in your cadre? He is not necessarily the one with the most merit badges or the strongest boy. The great guys in your cadre are those who humble themselves and, in the name of Jesus, become servants of all.

Find these qualities of greatness in the word search.

- | | | |
|-------|-------|-----------|
| last | helps | servant |
| cares | loves | humility |
| gives | serve | unselfish |



The dictionary defines greatness as “important, predominant, distinguished, grand, aristocratic, main, elaborate in character or quality, skilled, and having much approval.”

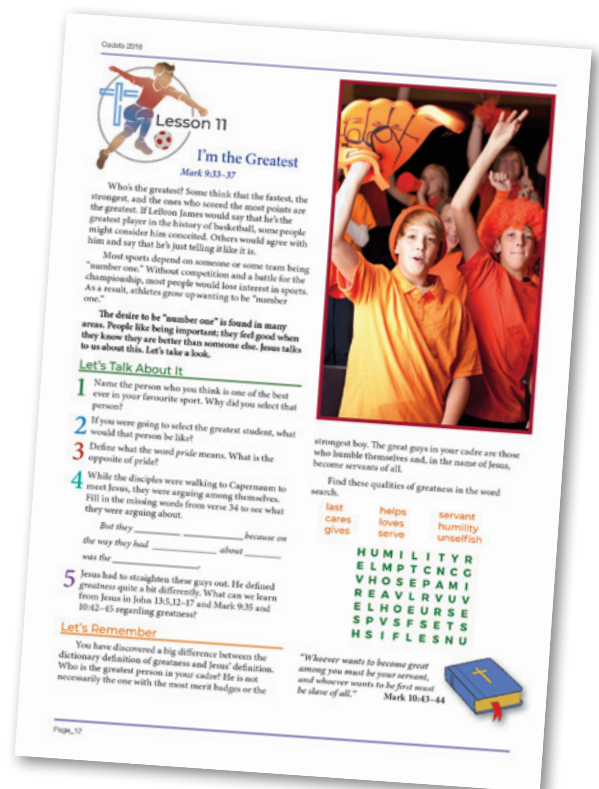
The Bible’s definition of greatness is the opposite: one who serves, acting as the servant, one of humility, one who loves the Lord and answers his neighbour’s needs.

These definitions have grown further apart as the result of man’s sin and selfishness.

LET’S REMEMBER

“Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all.”

Mark 10:43–44



Theme Discussion

Righteousness: Doing the Right Thing for the Right Reason

by Ron VandenBurg

Reading Parts: two commentators (C1 and C2)

Acting Parts: three Cadets as passers-by (PB1, PB2, PB3), and one person-in-need who is sitting on stage left centre. All actors perform the narration of the commentators.

C1: Welcome all to the Righteousness Bowl. I'm Tom Prodigal along with John Samaritan just outside the Blessing Centre where today we'll see if people will do the right thing for the right reason.

C2: That's right Tom. God demands the righteousness of his people, but we need to remember that it's not only doing the right thing that matters, but also doing that right thing for the right reason.

PB1 enters stage right, walks to stage left.

C1: Right now, let's head street level where _____ (name of PB1) is taking a stroll.

C2: Tom, he's looking very casual. Looks like he's just happy to be here today.

C1: He sees something on the ground. He's picking it up. He seems very happy.

C2: He's found some money, Tom.

C1: It is a twenty-dollar bill. He's looking around for someone who's lost it.

C2: That's the right thing to do.

C1: Sure is, but finding no one, he pockets the bill and is on his way.

C2: There's definitely a new bounce in his step. That's for sure.

C1: But look. _____ (name of PB1) has come face to face with a person-in-need. Will he use the twenty dollars to help out? *(pause)* He's reaching into his right pocket. He's pulling out a bill.

C2: I can't believe it. *(PB1 could do these motions in slow motion)* He's performing the switcheroo, the oldest play in the book. He's giving the person-in-need a five-dollar bill, instead of the twenty that the person-in-need could really use. _____ (name of PB1) is only willing to help a little bit. *(PB1 exits stage left)*

C1: _____ (name of PB1) did something for the right reason. He wanted to help, but he neglected to do the right thing.

C2: He was so close too. *(drops another \$20 on floor where first one was)*

C1: *(PB2 enters)* Here comes the next opportunity. _____ (name of PB2) from _____ (name of city). *(pause)* He's already spotted the twenty dollar bill.

C2: That's fast action, Tom. He's got it in his hands. It looks like he's got plans for that twenty dollars. Ooohhhh *(make it sound as if he's been tackled)* now he's quickly been faced with the person-in-need.

C1: Oh no! I can't believe the expression on _____ (name of PB2's) face.

C2: He's feeling awkward, Tom.

C1: Awkward, angry, guilty ...

C2: Maybe he figures that if he doesn't do the right thing, he won't be able to sleep at night.

C1: Seems so John. Look at that sick facial grimace as he hands over the twenty-dollar bill.

C2: Not doing it for the right reason. That's for sure.

C1: Yup. Did the right thing, but for the wrong reason.

C2: And he's walking away angry at himself. It's been a rough day so far for righteousness, Tom. *(walks over and drops another \$20 on floor)*

C1: Sure has, John. Let's see if things will improve now. Here's _____ (name of PB3) from _____ (name of city). He's slowly making his way toward the twenty-dollar bill.

C2: Oh, and he's walked right past it. There's no hope ...

C1: But wait, he's stopped. He turns. He sees the bill! He's got the bill!

C2: He's got it. Let's hope he does the right thing with it.

C1: Oh, no. He's walking right past the person-in-need.

C2: I've never seen in all my years somebody making such a needless mistake as this.

C1: Hold on. He's sensing something wrong. I can't believe it.... He's coming back. He's just handed the twenty dollars over so quickly.

C2: And with such a friendly smile. Cheerful giving. We're looking at one of the greats here. That's for sure.

C1: Yes, doing the right thing and for the right reason! That has to be pleasing to God.

C2: That's all from us here today. Goodbye.

(C1 begins to walk away. C2 stops him. They nod in agreement and they go help the person-in-need get up and walk him out.)



LESSON 12

I Want More Mark 10:17-31

MAIN OBJECTIVE

Cadets will understand that God's commandment, "Have no other gods before me" includes our desire for wealth and things.

INTRO ACTIVITY #1 (CHOOSE ACTIVITY #1 OR #2)

Materials needed: two small jars (same size), two walnuts (still in their shells) or small balls, and white rice

Before your meeting, find two jars the same size. Place one walnut into a jar and fill it up with rice. Empty the rice into a container to take with you to your Cadet meeting. Measure the same amount of rice into a different container.

Show your boys the first jar and put the walnut into it, telling them that the jar represents their lives, and the walnut represents God's place in their lives — first place. Next pour in the rice telling them that the rice represents the other things in their lives — school, friends, etc.

Next take the second jar and tell your Cadets that these things still represent the same things as before — life, God's place in our lives, and all the other "stuff" we fill our lives with. This time, fill the jar with the rice first. Now when you try to fit in the walnut, it sticks out the top.

The point is that when we put so many other things

before God, we end up having no room for Him.

INTRO ACTIVITY #2

Materials needed: two copies of the script below, and two willing "actors"

Begin by telling the boys they're going to listen to a conversation two friends have late one Saturday afternoon at a local fast-food restaurant ...

After the skit, ask your Cadets if they would do any of these things for \$1,000.

- Lie or gossip about a friend
- Cheat on a test
- Shoplift
- Skip church, catechism, Sunday school, or school
- "Throw" a game by intentionally not scoring when you have the opportunity
- Abuse or kill an animal

After a little discussion about the list, ask your boys these questions. How much greed is in your life? Would it cause you to damage or leave your Christian faith? Would you sacrifice your values?

Be sure your boys recognize that these things are against what God instructs them to do. If God is first in their lives, these are not things they should consider doing — not for any amount of money!

SKIT FOR INTRO ACTIVITY #2

Joey (J): Hey, Brandon, when did you start working here?

Brandon (B): Oh, a couple of weeks ago.

J: I thought you worked at the gas station around the corner. Why did you quit your other job?

B: I didn't! I work that one after school. But I can work Saturday and Sunday here. This way I get two paychecks. When I start driving, I want to drive a nice car, not an old junker, so I need a lot of money. Working at the gas station just wasn't going to get me enough.

J: I didn't see you at Sunday School last week.

B: Oh, yeah, I missed two weeks during my training. Now I should be able to be at church and Sunday School most Sunday mornings, unless I get extra hours. I'm supposed to start at lunch time and flip burgers till about 4:00 in the afternoon both days.

J: I can't believe your parents will let you work Sundays! Mine wouldn't. How do you have time for devotions, homework, and your friends?

B: Well, I don't have much time anymore, but having a

great car is really important.

J: Last week at Sunday School, we had a new song leader and sang some great songs with a band and everything. It was way cool! Afterward we talked about what God wants from us guys. It really made me think. I wish you'd been there!

B: I was so tired from working late on Saturday, that I didn't hear my alarm and overslept. My mum said she called me and I said I was up, but I don't remember. She was really angry!

J: Aaah, how'd you do on the history test today? I thought it was pretty easy. Didn't you?

B: I hadn't finished studying for the test before I fell asleep, so I didn't do that great. Oh well, it'll all be worth it when I get that great car!

J: Brandon, I don't know, but that just doesn't sound right to me. All you seem to care about is having enough money for a great car. A lot of things are more important than that!

THEME INTRODUCTION

In the past few years, there have been many reality TV shows involving contestants competing to win lots of money. On “Survivor,” people wanting to win the game do things — especially lying — to other contestants that would otherwise be unacceptable. On “Amazing Race,” people do things that are dangerous or gross to win. Many people want to compete on these shows, and would do just about anything to win lots of money. Millions of people dream of being rich so they can buy anything they want.

Just think what you could do with a lot of money! You could get a top-notch new bike every year. You could buy any computer or video game system along with any games you wanted. You could swim in your own indoor swimming pool! You could have the sports car of your dreams waiting for you when you get old enough to drive. Sounds great, doesn't it? Let's take a look!

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

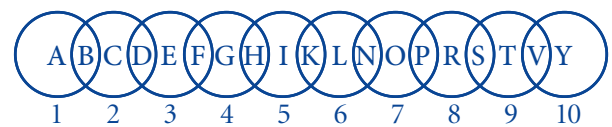
1. Mark 10:17–22 gives an account of a rich young man who asked Jesus what he had to do to receive eternal life.
 - ▶ Was this man as religious or good as he said (vs. 20)?
We're not sure. He seemed to be trying to work his way into heaven by obeying the commandments — which was what the Pharisees required. The fact that he asked Jesus the question indicates that he wanted to be sure he was on the right track.
 - ▶ What was he missing and why did he leave sad?
He still lacked selflessness and the desire to forsake everything and follow Jesus. He didn't realize it, but money was his god. He left sad because he was unwilling to part with his money to follow Jesus.
2. How hard is it for a rich man to get into heaven (vs. 25)? Can a rich man to be saved (vs. 27)?
It is harder than a camel passing through the eye of a needle. The suggestion that Jesus was referring to a small gate in Jerusalem called “the needle's eye,” through which camels could barely pass, is unsupported and trivialise Jesus' illustration. Salvation is impossible through man's eyes, but all things are possible for God. For rich and poor alike, salvation is a miracle of divine grace.
3. Solomon ranks as one of the wealthiest people who ever lived. What is his warning and his advice?
 - Proverbs 23:4–5?
 - Ecclesiastes 5:10?

Proverbs says don't work your hands to the bone to get rich. A wise person shows restraint and

properly balances work and recreation. Don't place too great a value on riches.

Ecclesiastes 5:10 says those who make money and possessions their goal never have enough. The one who strives to have more and more will never be satisfied.

4. In Luke 12:15, Jesus gives us a stern warning about things we value. What is this warning?
Jesus warned that our possessions are not what makes life complete. He knew that the more money man made, the more money man would want to make. That's why Jesus gave warnings against greed.
5. Is it a sin to be rich?
Read 1 Chronicles 29:12 and James 2:5. It is not a sin to be rich; nor is it one to be poor. It is a sin, however, to misuse whatever wealth the Lord has given us.
6. Real wealth is not found in having lots of things or money. What does Jesus say real wealth is (Matthew 6:20–21)?
Real wealth is storing up treasures in heaven. This is possible only when our hearts are fully committed to Jesus Christ, and we are obedient to Him in everything and recognize that all our earthly possessions belong to Him.
7. How do we get this kind of wealth? Use the code to find some ways. Can you think of other ways to store treasures in heaven?
We build that treasure by caring for the poor and needy, by sharing the Gospel, and by living according to the Cadet Code.



C	A	R	I	N	G	F	O	R												
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P	O	O	R	A	N	D	N	E	E	D	Y									
7,8	7	7	8	1	6,7	2,3	6,7	3	3	2,3	10									
S	H	A	R	I	N	G	T	H	E											
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LET'S REMEMBER

“You shall have no other gods before me.”
Deuteronomy 5:7



LESSON 13

Salty Christians Are Reverent and Obedient Mark 9:50

MAIN OBJECTIVE

Cadets will understand what it means to be reverent and that reverence requires obedience.

SECONDARY OBJECTIVES

1. Cadets will know the meaning of taking the Lord's name in vain.
2. Cadets will be able to list at least five people in authority over them.
3. Cadets will understand that when they show respect and reverence for God's law, they show respect and reverence for God.

INTRO ACTIVITY

Materials needed: canned goods with salt listed in ingredients, some salted and non-salted snacks

Explain to your Cadets that the word salty will be used in the titles of the next five Bible lessons. It comes from Matthew 5:13, where Jesus tells His followers that they are the salt of the earth.

As Christians, we are both the flavouring and the preservative for the earth. It is vital that we believe and behave differently than those around us. That's what it means to be salt.

Mention that salt is used as a preservative in many foods and show them some labels on canned goods where salt is listed in the ingredients. Salt is needed to preserve flavour and freshness and keep our food from spoiling quickly.

To bring home the value of salt, an object lesson your boys would enjoy is taste-testing some snacks with and without salt. Popcorn would be an inexpensive way to illustrate this point. Other good illustrations are salted versus unsalted pretzels, potato chips, crackers (or any other normally salty snacks that you can find salt-free alternatives for). Most boys will prefer salty snacks and find unsalted ones rather bland.

THEME INTRODUCTION

Miguel Cabrera steps into the batter's box with runners on first and third. The outfielders each take three steps backward. When it comes to playing baseball, Miguel Cabrera gets respect.

Getting that respect took time. Cabrera had to prove that he could consistently hit with power. He, like all baseball players, had to earn respect.

Jesus calls believers "the salt of the earth" (Matthew 5:13). Our Cadet Code helps us understand what that means. Showing respect is part of being "salty."

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

1. The respect that is given to Miguel Cabrera on the baseball field is a little different than the kind of respect that "salty" Christians give to God. Showing respect is like showing reverence. What does it mean to show reverence?

To show reverence is to honour God in all that we do. All of our actions should bring praise and glory to His name. Above all things, God demands our highest respect.

2. Is it possible to show respect for objects? If so, how would you show respect for these things:
 - ▶ clothes and toys
 - ▶ school property
 - ▶ campground/forest
 - ▶ your body

Respecting God's creation means taking proper care of it. It means taking care of your clothes and toys by picking them up and putting them away after using them. It means respecting school property by not writing in textbooks or on desks, and taking care of any supplies you borrow. It also means protecting live plants and trees while camping by putting out fires completely before leaving them, and being sure you don't leave any garbage behind. It means that you take care of your body with proper diet, exercise, and hygiene.

3. The almighty powerful God expects His children to revere and respect Him. What are some instructions on how we can do that (Exodus 20:3,7)?

In Exodus 20:3, God clearly states we may have no other gods than Him. We are called to acknowledge, trust, love, fear, and honour Him alone. Superstition, Ouija boards, and horoscopes have no place in the life of one who shows reverence to God.

Exodus 20:7 commands us to show proper reverence for God's Name. "God damn," "damn," "OMG," or a misused "Jesus Christ" have no place in the vocabulary of one who strives to be reverent.

4. Read Leviticus 24:10–16. What did the people of Israel learn about showing reverence to God? Do you think God feels the same way today?

The people of Israel learned that anyone who misused God’s Name should be stoned to death. And our God, who doesn’t change, feels the same way today.

5. How do people show lack of respect to God during Bible lessons? during prayer? during church?

Showing lack of respect for God extends beyond cursing and swearing. Attitudes like “Let’s hurry and get this lesson over with,” “Do we have to go to church?” and thoughtless prayers all show a lack of respect for God.

6. God doesn’t have to earn respect. He demands it. He also demands that we show reverence and respect to other people. What does He tell us in Romans 13:1–2? List some people in authority and some common ways people show lack of respect for them. How should we show respect for them?

If we are serious about showing God reverence, then we must submit and give honour to the authorities over us. Have Cadets list at least five people in authority over them. This could include parents, teachers, Cadet counsellors, coaches, police, all government officials, safety patrols at school, and school janitors. Encourage Cadets to be specific about how they and their friends show lack of respect to the people on this list. We show respect for those in authority over us by being obedient and submissive to them.

Jesus tells us that what we do to the people around us we do to God (Matthew 25:40,45). We must show respect to all people because all are God’s creation.

7. Find out what reverence and obedience have to do with each other by using the code to fill in the missing words.



By S H O W I N G R E V E R E N C E
4 2 5 5 2 3 2 4 2 5 5 4 2 3 1 5

to God and His C R E A T I O N, we are being
1 4 2 1 4 2 3 3

O B E D I E N T to His C O M M A N D S
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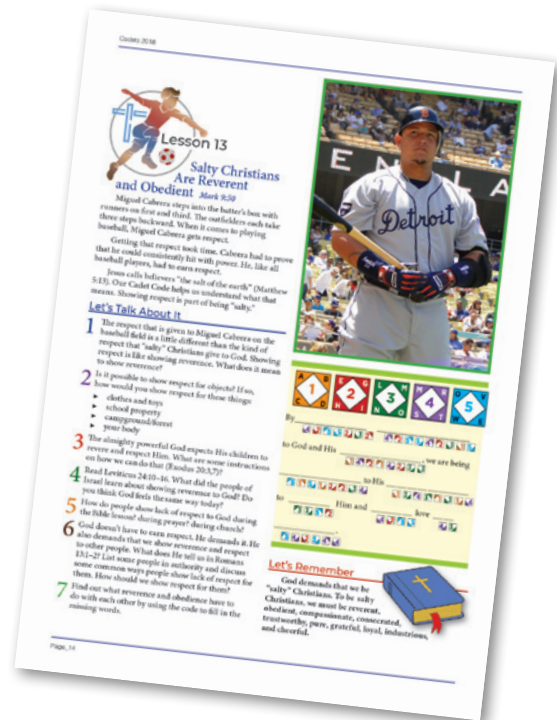
to L O V E Him and S H O W love T O
3 3 5 2 4 2 5 5 4 3

O T H E R S.
5 4 2 5 4 4

LET’S REMEMBER

God demands that we be “salty” Christians. To be salty Christians, we must be reverent, obedient, compassionate, consecrated, trustworthy, pure, grateful, loyal, industrious, and cheerful.

End the lesson with reciting the Cadet Code. Close in prayer, asking for God’s help as we strive to be reverent toward God, and show proper respect for the people and objects around us.





LESSON 14

Salty Christians Are Compassionate and Consecrated

MAIN OBJECTIVE

Cadets will understand that, as Christians, we must devote our whole lives to God.

SECONDARY OBJECTIVES

1. Cadets will be able to define compassionate in their own words.
2. Cadets will be able to define consecrated in their own words.

REVIEW

Remind the boys that last week we talked about being “salty” Christians because Jesus told His followers that they were to be the salt of the earth. We learned that salt is both a flavouring and a preservative. We learned that there are lots of ways we can be salty. This week we will look at two more of those ways.

INTRO ACTIVITY

Materials needed: copy of questions and pencil for each boy (make copies from page 36)

Hand out paper and pencils. Have Cadets individually write their answers to these questions. You will get back to these questions later in the lesson.

THEME INTRODUCTION

As soon as the club was dismissed after reciting the Cadet landmarks, Jon and Brandon headed to their cadre room. Jon muttered to Brandon, “Well, I can say all the words, but I sure don’t have a clue what they all mean. Like compassionate and consecrated. Do you think compassionate has something to do with being a good compass reader?”

Brandon thought a moment, “Nah, that doesn’t sound right. Let’s see if Counsellor Bob can explain it to us.”

LET’S TALK ABOUT IT

1. To understand what compassion is, read each passage and answer these Questions: What did Jesus see? How did it make Him feel? What did He do?
 - ▶ **Mark 1:40–41** — Jesus saw sickness. He had compassion for the man and helped by healing the man.

- ▶ **Mark 6:34** — Jesus looked over the crowd and saw that they were like sheep without a shepherd. Jesus had compassion on them and He taught them in order to help them spiritually.
- ▶ **Mark 8:2–8** — Jesus saw that the crowd was hungry. This time He did what He could to help them physically — He fed them.
- ▶ **Luke 7:12–13** — Jesus saw sadness, and His heart went out to the woman. He comforted her by raising her son to life.

2. Finish the following: To be compassionate means to ...

To have compassion means to care about others, to respect their feelings, and to do what we can to help them.

3. To be consecrated means to be set apart or dedicated to the service of God. What is being consecrated in these passages?

- ▶ **Romans 6:13** — As consecrated people, we offer ourselves to God. Every part of our body must be dedicated to righteous living.
- ▶ **Romans 12:1** — As consecrated people, we offer not just our bodies, but our lives as a living sacrifice to God. Our lives are dedicated to serving God as our way of expressing thanks for what He, through Jesus Christ, has done for us.

4. Look up the definition of “consecrated” in the Landmarks section of your *R•P•B Guidebook*. Rewrite this definition on paper replacing the words *he* with *I*, *his* with *my*, and *him* with *me*.

I must realize that all of what I have and am, I owe to the Lord. I know that God expects me to devote my time and talents in the Lord’s service in whatever position of life I am placed. My life must be filled with gratitude for the many blessings I have received.

5. From what we’ve just learned about being consecrated, do you think you need to make any changes in your life to make it consecrated to God?

Go over the answers the guys wrote to the introductory activity questions. For each question,

focus on how they can devote that aspect of their lives to God. Talk about the changes they may need to make. They may need to change the type of music they listen to, or the television shows they watch. If their eyes, ears, and mind are consecrated to God, then many of the shows and songs are not appropriate. If our lives are dedicated to God, will our career choices change? Our goal should be to glorify God with our careers, not just make lots of money for ourselves.

- Complete the word search by finding words that show compassion and consecration.

LET'S REMEMBER

Set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.

1 Timothy 4:12b

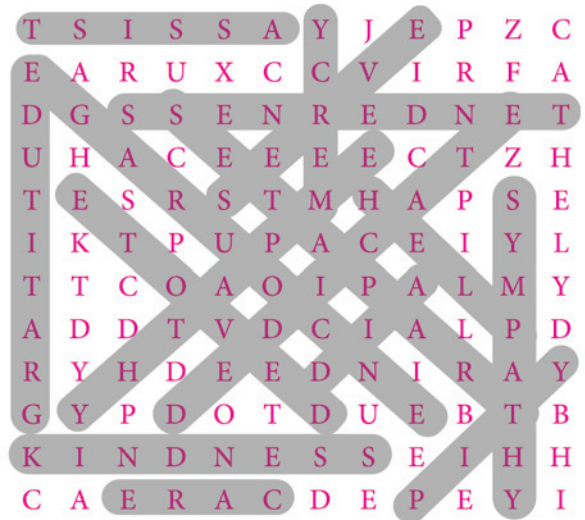
Close the lesson in prayer, asking God to guide us in being compassionate toward others and consecrating all areas of our lives to the Lord. In this way we are salty Christians and a light to those around us.

Words Showing Compassion

- aid
- care
- help
- pity
- mercy
- serve
- assist
- empathy
- kindness
- encourage
- sympathy
- tenderness

Words Showing Consecration

- devote
- set apart
- dedicate
- gratitude



QUESTIONS FOR INTRO ACTIVITY

- What is your favourite TV show? _____

- What is your favourite food? _____

- If you could be anyone else, who would you be? _____

- If you could buy anything, what would you buy? _____

- When you consider yourself to be “great” or “cool,” what are you doing? _____

- What would you like to be when you get older? _____

- What is your favourite TV show? _____

- What is your favourite food? _____

- If you could be anyone else, who would you be? _____

- If you could buy anything, what would you buy? _____

- When you consider yourself to be “great” or “cool,” what are you doing? _____

- What would you like to be when you get older? _____

Theme Discussion

Don't Be Deceived

OBJECTIVE

Each boy will understand that he needs to look deeper than how things appear when making choices.

INTRODUCTION

Materials Needed: Chocolate candy bar piece, Ex-Lax piece

Our theme for February is “Wisdom: Seeing from God’s Point of View.” We’ll learn about God’s wisdom by looking at what the wisest man in history has to tell us.

Hold up a piece of the chocolate candy bar and the piece of Ex-Lax, without telling your Cadets that they are different. They should assume that both are pieces of a chocolate candy bar. Gesture as if you’re going to hand them to one of the boys while you’re speaking, but don’t give them away.

Ask your boys what they would get if they eat this treat (as you hold up the chocolate). They may suggest pleasure, maybe a pimple, or gaining weight.

Now hold up the piece of Ex-Lax and ask if they expect the same result from this treat too. Then explain what you’re showing them and tell them they could expect to spend some extra time in the rest room if they ate that “treat.”

Explain that appearances don’t lead us the right way. When we look to God and the instructions He gives in the Bible, we will make good choices that will save us a lot of grief.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read Matthew 7:15–20. Who might be some of the “false prophets” giving you bad advice?

If you take advice from the wrong people, that can make them “false prophets” for you. Some of the people giving bad advice may be non-Christian (and sometimes even Christian!) friends, TV celebrities, and many others. Anyone who is not walking with God can and probably will lead you down paths you should avoid. Following the advice of some of these “false prophets” can lead to some pretty nasty outcomes. They may be very successful or intelligent people that we admire, or they may be our athletic “heroes” — people who are walking a very worldly path.

2. What are some of the ways these people may mislead us?

When we try to be like them or try to fit in their crowd, we can make some big mistakes. Their

lifestyles often do not resemble the way God would have us go. You could assign each boy to quietly read a different chapter in Proverbs. Ask them afterwards to share some ways people can be led astray (i.e., Proverbs 18, 20, 23).

3. What kind of lies are we told today from the media? Are there lies you’ve believed and acted on?

The media gives us very selfish messages that imply “if it’s good for you, it’s the right thing to do.” We’re told things like money or the right product will make us happy or successful. Another message we’re given is that we can use sex for power, to make someone love us, or just for fun. “Safe” sex is advocated, and purity seems to be ignored.

4. Which bad influences affect you the most?

Answers may include their friends, music, movies, TV, the internet, or magazines. Be willing to share what influences you need to be careful with so that you don’t follow the lies. If you have boys struggling with some of these bad influences, try to get them to commit to avoid contact with whatever is tempting them, and replace it with God’s Word. They should think about what God would want them to do, instead of following the lies that Satan puts in front of them.

5. What results from following bad advice (Proverbs 13:5, 21:28)?

Shame and disgrace result from sin. Proverbs 21:28 states it even stronger saying that whoever listens to and follows a false witness will be destroyed forever. Continuing in this way is very dangerous! The only way out of destruction is turning to Jesus Christ, accepting Him, and then living for Him.

6. How do we know who are good influences (Matthew 7:16–20)?

Look for the “fruit” of their lives. Every good tree bears good fruit, and every bad tree produces bad fruit. So, look at what the people do — are they obeying God and serving Him faithfully? Those who try to be more like Jesus are good examples to follow.

REMEMBER

When you’re making a decision, ask yourself what Jesus would do or what the Bible says. Looking to God and faithfully reading His Word is true wisdom.



LESSON 15

Salty Christians Are Trustworthy and Pure

MAIN OBJECTIVE

Cadets will gain a deeper understanding of what it means to be trustworthy and pure.

INTRO ACTIVITY

To introduce this lesson, you may want to play “Telephone.” Whisper the following sentence in the ear of one Cadet: “Dan Landers left his right flipper under the neighbour’s boat.” This Cadet in turn whispers what he heard to the next Cadet. He in turn whispers to another until the last Cadet has the message. Have this Cadet say what he heard and compare this to the printed sentence. Chances are there will be a drastic difference. You are now ready for the lesson on being pure and trustworthy.

THEME INTRODUCTION

“Wow! I’ve sure learned a lot about the words of the Cadet Code in the last few weeks.” Brandon said to Jon.

“Yeah, I’ve been practicing being reverent, obedient, compassionate, and consecrated since learning about them in our lessons.” Jon replied.

“I wonder what we’ll have to do with the next two words in the Code.” Brandon added.

“Well, trustworthy and pure are the next ones. Let’s go find Counsellor Bob. He’ll tell us what the Bible says about them.” Jon said.

LET’S TALK ABOUT IT

1. What does it mean to be trustworthy?

Insist that each Cadet respond to this question. Being trustworthy includes telling the truth and keeping promises. Write their answers on a large sheet of paper or chalkboard. If the boys need help coming up with an answer, tell them to look in the *R•P•B Guidebook*.

2. What does the Bible say about the meaning of “trustworthy” in these verses?

List their answers on a large paper or chalkboard.

- **Deuteronomy 25:15** — “You must have accurate and honest weights and measures, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you.”

Trustworthy people and businesses use

accurate means of measuring and weighing things.

- **Proverbs 8:7** — If someone always tells the truth, you can believe what they say. When people add lies to what’s true, you never know what you are getting and they can’t be trusted.
- **1 Corinthians 13:6** — Love is the measuring stick we use for all of our activities, and love rejoices in the truth (trustworthiness).
- **Ephesians 4:25** — We must speak the truth to our neighbour.
- **Hebrews 10:23** — “He who promised is faithful.” A trustworthy person keeps his promises.

Compare the two lists you have made on the meaning of “trustworthy” and be sure the boys understand the Biblical meaning.

3. Trustworthy people obey the ninth commandment — “You shall not give false testimony against your neighbour.” How does Leviticus 19:11–18 help explain what God means with this command?

These verses are packed with things a trustworthy person should do and things he should not do. Go through the verses together and talk about how each verse fits with being trustworthy. Trustworthy people do not: steal, lie, deceive, swear falsely, defraud, pervert justice, show favouritism, slander, hate, seek revenge, bear grudges. Instead, we are to look for ways to love and fairly treat our family, friends, and neighbours.

The Heidelberg Catechism also says in Lord’s Day 43 that we should never give false testimony against anyone, twist another’s words, gossip, slander, or join in condemning anyone without a just cause. We are to love the truth and do what we can to guard and advance other people’s good names.

4. Read Acts 5:1–11 together. What was Ananias’ sin? What was his punishment?

His sin was lying, for which he died instantly. The story of Ananias and Sapphira brutally illustrates how God feels about those who openly violate His commandment to speak the truth and be trustworthy.



LESSON 16

Salty Christians Are Grateful and Loyal

Luke 17:11–19

MAIN OBJECTIVE

Cadets will understand the importance of thanking God for all the gifts He has given them by responding with loyalty — giving God their lives and service.

INTRO ACTIVITY

Materials needed: snack for each Cadet

Start your cadre time by giving each boy a snack, without saying anything. As you do, note who does or does not thank you. Just let them talk among themselves until the snacks are gone. Then point out how many (if any) of them thanked you. If everyone thanked you, but not until one person started it, point that out. Remind them that being grateful is one of the parts of the Cadet Code. Tell them that you're glad they remembered to say "thanks" (if they did). In tonight's Bible passage, only one person from a group of ten remembered to thank Jesus.

Another option for this opening activity is to make one of the snacks much better than the rest. All of your boys (except for the one who gets the better snack) will probably feel like they weren't treated fairly, instead of being thankful for what you gave them. Did the boy with the better treat say "thanks"? Was he uncomfortable with what he had compared to the others? If you choose to do this, emphasize that we are to be thankful for what we are given, and not be jealous or envious of what someone else has!

THEME INTRODUCTION

"Brandon, you should have heard my mum! She was really ticked at me for not saying 'Thank you' when she picked me up after ball practice at school yesterday. She's my mum, so I didn't think I needed to say that every time she does some little thing for me." Jon complained.

"I know what you mean. Every time I forget to say 'thanks' around the house, I get yelled at by my dad. And lately he says that I'm not being loyal to my sister because I don't want to take her with me to the park." Brandon replied.

Counsellor Bob overheard the two boys, "Hey guys, it sounds like you two have a bit of a problem with understanding what it means to be grateful and loyal. Do you remember they are part of your Cadet Code? Let's check out what the Bible says about them."

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

1. Read the story of the ten lepers who came to Jesus in Luke 17:11–19.

► What did they ask of Jesus and how did He respond?

They asked Jesus to have pity on them. It was their way of asking Jesus to heal them. Jesus simply told them to go and show themselves to the priest. He implied that their faith would be shown by obedience. All ten men showed faith and were cleansed.

► Why was Jesus disappointed?

Only one praised God and returned to thank Jesus for his cure.

2. In what way is sin like leprosy? What is the cure for sin, and how do we get it?

Sin, like leprosy, gradually destroys the entire body. The cure is the blood of Christ. Ephesians 2:8–9 clearly states, "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith — and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God — not by works, so that no one can boast."

3. Out Cadet pledge starts out, "Thankful to God for His gifts to me..." What gifts has God given you?

Answers will vary from boy to boy.

4. Use the code to find out why God wants us to express our thanks to Him.

	1	2	3	4	5
■	R	A	F	W	I
●	K	P	Y	S	R
●	C	G	L	E	A
●	N	H	V	C	U
■	T	E	O	B	D

B	E	T	H	A	N	K	F	U	L			
4	4	1	2	2	1	1	3	5	3			
A	N	D	S	O	W	O	R	S	H	I	P	
5	1	5	4	3	4	3	1	4	2	5	2	
G	O	D	A	C	C	E	P	T	A	B	L	Y
2	3	5	5	1	4	2	2	1	2	4	3	3
W	I	T	H	R	E	V	E	R	E	N	C	E
4	5	1	2	5	4	3	2	1	4	1	1	2
A	N	D	A	W	E							
2	1	5	5	4	4							

Hebrews 12:28b

Everything that we are and have is a gift from God. Have Cadets list specific gifts (i.e. parents, school, possessions, health, air, recreation, etc.). Point out that thankfulness shows a right attitude toward God and is worship that is acceptable to our awesome God.

5. How can we show God that we are truly grateful for ...

Again have Cadets be specific. What follows are some possible responses.

▶ our parents

Say “thank you” often. Cadets can also show gratitude by obeying, assuming their own responsibilities at home, not talking back to parents, and occasionally expressing affection. Also saying thanks to those around us shows our respect for them.

▶ our possessions

Take proper care of them. This includes putting them away properly after use so they don’t get damaged.

▶ our country

Respect the laws and officials in authority over us. Keep your country clean and beautiful by picking up litter ... and don’t litter yourself. Ask if the boys think it is okay to post or share hurtful or demeaning things about their country’s leaders on social media.

▶ our friends

Share what we have with them, stop trying to outdo them, build them up to encourage them, and be a humble servant to them.

▶ what Jesus Christ has done for us

Express appreciation through prayer and living a life of gratitude for His love for us, His children. This might be a good time to ask your Cadets about their own relationship with Jesus Christ. Do not assume that just because they go to church, they have already accepted Christ as Lord and Saviour. Encourage them to do so. And be prepared for positive responses!

6. The remainder of the Cadet pledge helps us understand how we can show thanks to God. What does it say?

We can say “thank you” in actions as well as in words. Our actions are expressed in our attitude and service — to God, parents, country, church, neighbour, and Corps.

7. Define “loyalty,” and then complete the following sentence: Loyalty should be a natural result of gratitude because ...

The *R•P•B Guidebook* defines loyalty in terms of both actions and attitudes. It requires a faithful, sincere, honest, personal interest in God and His kingdom.

If we are truly grateful to God for what He’s done, we will want to be loyal to Him. Our Cadet hymn begins with “Living for Jesus a life that is true.” That’s loyalty — a life of loyalty.

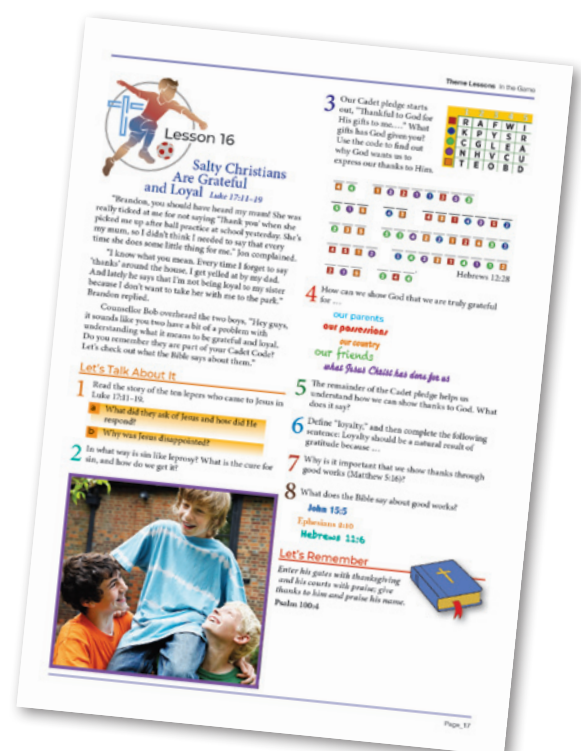
8. Why is it important that we show thanks through good works (Matthew 5:16)?

We don’t do good works so that we may be saved. We do good works because we are saved. Good works are done so that others will see them and give praise, not to us, but to our Father in Heaven.

LET’S REMEMBER

Ask the guys how easy or hard it is for them to be thankful to God for His gifts to them. They can look back over the list in question #5. Have them explain why it is easy or what makes it so difficult. Then as you close, ask each boy to choose one of God’s gifts that he has not been thankful for in the past and give thanks to God in prayer. This may be an opportunity for a popcorn prayer so that the boys have a chance to thank God for those gifts.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.
Psalm 100:4





LESSON 17

Salty Christians Are Industrious and Cheerful

MAIN OBJECTIVE

Cadets will recognize the joy of living in Christ.

SECONDARY OBJECTIVES

1. Cadets will be able to define industrious.
2. Cadets will be able to define Christian joy.

INTRODUCTORY ACTIVITY

For a few minutes, have your Cadets complain like never before. Have them write down everything they can think to complain about under the following categories:

- School
- Work at home
- Church
- Brothers and sisters
- Parents
- Cadets

Sometimes we catch ourselves complaining so much that we chuckle about how bitter and negative we can become. Having Cadets list all the things they could possibly complain about will, in a lighthearted but real way, point out how much we really do complain.

THEME INTRODUCTION

“Do you call this picked up? Mario, I’ve asked you three times to pick up your room. Get up here now and do it right!”

These words, no doubt, sound familiar. Mario hates cleaning his room. Even though he knows he has to do it once each week, he puts it off. Kenneth, on the other hand, quickly does anything that his parents ask. He’s a hard worker, but you’ve never heard anyone complain as much as Kenneth does.

Scripture talks to us about getting the job done. It also talks to us about our attitude. Let’s take a look.

LET’S TALK ABOUT IT

1. What does it mean to be industrious (Ecclesiastes 9:10, Colossians 3:23–24)?

The dictionary defines industrious as “working energetically and devotedly.” Other words that describe an industrious person include diligent, hard worker, perseverance.

“Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might.” Nowhere in Scripture does God ask us to perform better than our neighbour. He does,

however, expect that we give Him our best. In other words, don’t compare yourself to someone else. Instead, compare yourself to what you could be and should be.

2. What do these verses from Proverbs tell us about our chores around the house? About our homework? About our after-school jobs?

- ▶ **Proverbs 13:4** — Just wanting things or good grades won’t get them for you; it takes work to get them!
- ▶ **Proverbs 20:13** — Don’t lie around when there is work to do. Do the work! People who are lazy don’t get or keep good jobs.
- ▶ **Proverbs 21:5** — In whatever you do, do it carefully. Don’t rush through cleaning your room or doing your homework. Rushing usually ends up wasting time.

3. Our Cadet Code ends with the word *cheerful*. See if you can come up with five different endings to the sentence: **Cheerfulness is...**

Allows each boy to define, from his own perspective, what cheerfulness is. Most boys will equate cheerfulness with happiness, but they are not quite the same. Cheerful is defined in the dictionary as pleasant, in good spirits, ungrudging, willingness, good humour, or causing happiness. Happiness involves pleasure, contentment and joy, being cheerful and willing to help (i.e., happy to help).

4. Read the following three statements. If you think the statement is true, write a T on the line; if it is false, write an F.

None of the following statements have firm answers. Ideally, there will be some disagreement on each one. Each boy should express why he thinks the statement is true or false.

___ *Happy, cheerful, glad, and feeling good all mean the same thing.*

Being cheerful doesn’t necessarily mean being constantly happy-go-lucky. We can feel good without a big smile on our face.

___ *It is possible to be cheerful and sad at the same time.*

We rejoice in the assurance that God is with us no matter what comes our way (2 Corinthians 12:10; 1 Peter 3:14).

___ A smile means that someone is feeling good.
A lot of loneliness and agony can be hidden behind a smile.

5. The Bible doesn't use the word cheerfulness very often, but it does talk about happiness. What does the Bible say about true happiness in these verses?

- ▶ Psalm 144:15 — Happiness is recognizing Jehovah God as the only God.
- ▶ Proverbs 3:13 — Happiness is finding wisdom and gaining understanding.
- ▶ Proverbs 14:21 — Happiness is being kind to the needy.
- ▶ Proverbs 16:20 — Happiness is trusting the Lord.
- ▶ Proverbs 29:18 — Happiness is obeying God's law.
- ▶ 1 Peter 3:14 — Happiness is suffering for righteousness' sake.

6. What do you think it means to be cheerfully industrious (see Ephesians 6:7-8, Colossians 3:17)?

To tie together the loose ends of the lesson, explain that *cheerfully industrious* means working wholeheartedly with a good attitude because we are serving the Lord, not men (Ephesians 6:7-8). Whatever we do is a reflection of God, Whom we serve, so honour and thank Him for it (Colossians 3:17).

7. The Cadet Code tells what we have to do to remain salty Christians. Recite that code and find the words hidden in the word search puzzle below. (You don't need to find the "A".) When you've finished, write out the unused letters to find a verse to remember.

Word search puzzle grid:

```

S H O I U T F O R J O C L
E T A N O I S S A P M O C
G Y R D T B O R T H Y N E
L R L U O R E D A A L S L
T U A S S V H D L E E E A
R N F T E T T H I W O C R
D S H R E I W P C E B R T
H E E I E F L O O A N A R
D N W O I E U T R H D T G
T E R U P L H L A T D E N
E S T S U M S C A N H D T
D J O Y F U L S O N G Y S
    
```

LET'S REMEMBER

S H O U T F O R J O Y T O
T H E L O R D , A L L T H E
E A R T H . W O R S H I P T H E
L O R D W I T H G L A D N E S S
... [A N D] J O Y F U L S O N G S .

Psalm 100:1-2

Write down every good thing you can think of for the following categories:

- School
- Work at home
- Church
- Brothers and sisters
- Parents
- Cadets

If we are to be cheerful, let's get rid of the complaining! Our attitude toward work and all of life needs to be on the good things God has given (Philippians 4:8-9).

If they have trouble getting started, remind them of homes with electrical service and running water every day. We can walk into a grocery store almost 24 hours a day — places where there's so much food, people from Darfur would be amazed. We have the freedom to worship God, and have many social and political freedoms. We live in homes that have adequate heat in the winter, and many have air conditioning for hot summer weather. Think about the difference between their lives and those of orphans around the world whose parents have died from AIDS. And that's just a start!

Lesson 17
Salty Christians
Are Industrious
and Cheerful

What do you think it means to be cheerfully industrious (see Ephesians 6:7-8, Colossians 3:17)? The Cadet Code tells what we have to do to remain salty Christians. Recite that code and find the words hidden in the word search puzzle in the next page. (You don't need to find the "A".) When you've finished, write out the unused letters to find a verse to remember.

Let's Remember

- School
- Work at home
- Church
- Brothers and sisters
- Parents
- Cadets

Write down every good thing you can think of for the following categories:

Theme Discussion

God's Choice, God's Child

MATERIALS

- A bag full of 'ordinary' things, chosen because there is nothing significant or special about them — pencil, mug, notebook, small piece of rope, sticky tape, stone, etc.
- Bible verses related to salvation (1 Corinthians 1:26–28) inside a brown envelope inserted at the bottom of the bag.

ACTIVITY

Tell the boys you have brought along some things to show them. Pick up your bag and bring out the items one by one, with a commentary going something like this:

“Here I have a mug. Well, it's rather ordinary. There's nothing much I can say about it. What's next? Here's a pencil... have a whole box just like it at home. Here is a notebook. It's empty. Nothing special about it at all. A small piece of rope... I forgot what that was from.

Next, a roll of sticky tape. Now why is that in the bag? A stone... hmm, I wonder how that got in here...” Keep talking until the bag is empty except for the envelope.

Take the envelope out and say, “Hmm, I wonder what this is...” Take the paper out of the envelope and read the verse:

Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things — and the things that are not — to nullify the things that are.

1 Corinthians 1:26–28

APPLICATION

God deliberately chooses ordinary people — people who have nothing special about them. Does anyone here feel they are rather ordinary? Perhaps they never win at games, or shine in class. Perhaps they never place first, never are the best at anything. These are exactly the sort of people God wants to be his own! He deliberately chose each person here. We don't have to be rich, important, or superstars to be special in God's eyes. He loves and wants ordinary people like you and me!



LESSON 18

The Greatest Commandment Mark 12:28–34

MAIN OBJECTIVE

Cadets will understand the importance and implications of God’s law of love.

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

The last five lessons have departed from the book of Mark specifically; they have been an “enlargement” of Mark 9:50, the verse requiring Christians to “be salty.” Salt keeps food fresh and flavourful — making it very valuable. These lessons showed how living by our Cadet Code helps us be valuable for service to our Saviour. This week we return to the book of Mark with a look at the greatest commandment of all.

INTRO ACTIVITY

Materials needed: darts and dartboard (or board, hammer and nails instead); paper; markers

Prepare your dartboard ahead of time. Write the name Jesus in very bold large letters. Tape it onto your dartboard. Cover this paper so you can’t see any writing through the paper. You will also use a few more blank sheets.

Ask your boys to draw situations or people who made them angry — someone they wanted to “pay back” for some offense. Tape these up on your dartboard. Then give the boys time to throw darts at the pictures taped on your dartboard. Be sure to give them plenty of room so no one is hurt.

After each boy has had time to throw the darts at their pictures a couple of times, collect the darts. Then remove all the paper, except the one with the name Jesus on it. There will be holes and rips all over this paper too. Remain quiet for a brief time so the boys have time to see what happened. Then quote Matthew 25:40, “Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.” Tonight’s lesson focuses on showing love to God and to our neighbours. This activity helps illustrate how our actions affect each other, and how even when we aren’t thinking about it, they also affect our Saviour.

THEME INTRODUCTION

Kyle didn’t know what to do. He had so many things to do after school and so little time to do them. He had to practice his horn and do his homework. He wanted to finish his pinewood derby car, and all his friends played baseball every night after school. Kyle knew he wouldn’t have time to

do everything. He had to decide which activity was most important and start there.

The Old Testament is full of laws. In addition to the Ten Commandments, there are pages and pages of religious laws. One time a lawyer approached Jesus and asked Him to select the most important of all the laws. Check out Jesus’ answer.

LET’S TALK ABOUT IT

1. When Jesus responded to the lawyer, He did more than select the most important commandment. Which two commandments did He mention (Mark 12:29–31)?

The two commandments that Jesus mentioned summarized God’s law to tell us to love God above all and our neighbours as ourselves.

2. The Bible suggests many ways to help us understand how we can show our love to God. How can we show love to God according to these verses?

- ▶ **Psalm 97:10** — Hate what is evil. Emphasize the word hate. We aren’t even to tolerate evil, but instead despise it and do our best not to participate in it.
- ▶ **Matthew 25:34–36** — We are to be sensitive to the needs of others. When we know their needs, we must act to meet them.
- ▶ **Mark 9:41** — Serve others in Christ’s name. The emphasis here is the motive — doing it in the name of Christ.
- ▶ **John 14:15** — Keep His commandments. (Your Cadets should recognize this as the Cadet verse!)

3. Let’s discover more about Christian love by reading the story in Luke 10:30–36. Answer true or false for these statements.

Assign each boy a part in the Good Samaritan story. Use the paraphrase that is printed at the end of the lesson (page 41), or read it from Luke 10. Instruct them to act it out while you read it. After you have read the story, have each boy respond to the following statements. Generate some discussion as you strive to define what it means to love your neighbour as yourselves.

___ The priest was wrong for not helping the injured man.

True. To get the boys thinking about their answer, ask them: Was the priest really negligent by not helping out? After all, he was old, and probably couldn't do much. Besides, someone else would probably come by soon to help.

— The Levite was wrong in not helping the injured man.

True. Ask the guys: Isn't leading a group Bible discussion better use of time than helping one person?

— The Samaritan was foolish to put himself in danger to help the injured man.

False. Talk about who a Samaritan was. Whatever those thieves did to the injured man, they would surely do to the Samaritan, because Samaritans were considered second class citizens. Isn't one bruised person better than two? From the world's point of view, he probably was foolish to help the injured man, but it was the right thing to do. God's ways and the world's ways are often at odds with each other (1 Corinthians 1:25).

4. Answer true or false for these neighbourly statements. Fit the underlined words in the fill-in puzzle.

- My neighbour lives next door to me.
- My neighbour lives in Toronto, Ontario.
- My neighbour is a first-grader at school who keeps bugging me.
- Every girl in my school is my neighbour.
- The kid who jabs me with a compass in math class is my neighbour.
- My sister is my neighbour.

This exercise will help your Cadets identify everyone as their neighbour. All of these statements are true, and we are to love all these people as we love ourselves. Your boys may raise some of the following questions; if they don't, you may want to ask them. Does this mean that everyone should be our friend? Even the unfriendly? Are we showing favourites by having "best" friends? Is it wrong to just tolerate someone? Do we have to love everyone as we love ourselves? Explain that we must genuinely love all people, but that doesn't mean they necessarily are our friends. We can have and show Christian love for people we may not choose for friends.

Ask the boys if they agree or disagree with this statement — "My neighbour is every black, white, red, yellow, and brown person living today." Most kids should agree with this true statement. Ask the boys: If we know that all people are our neighbours, and we are to love our neighbour as ourselves, can we justify ethnic jokes? Can we justify forming cliques in school? Can we justify making ourselves look good by making someone else look bad?

5. Finish the sentence: Love is... . Compare your answer to the Bible (John 15:12-13, 1 Corinthians 13:4-7).

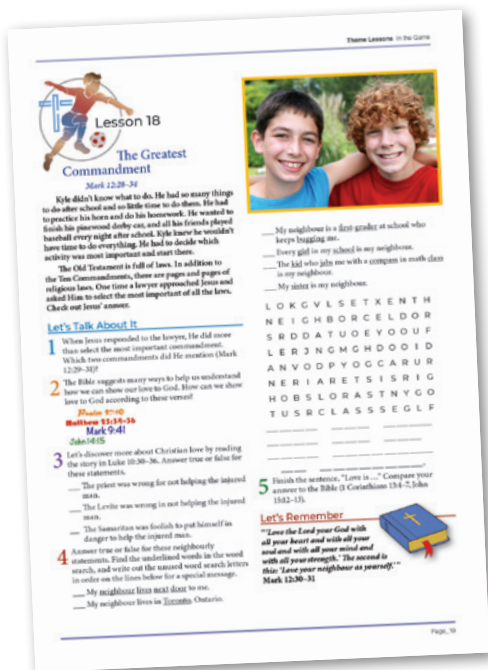
This has no wrong answer. Ask every boy what he thinks love is. When everyone has something written down, discuss their responses. When you have finished your discussion, compare what your group came up with to the familiar Scripture passages dealing with this subject.

LET'S REMEMBER

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength." The second is this: "Love your neighbour as yourself."

Mark 12:30-31a

Before you close your lesson in prayer, review the lesson by asking the boys to finish the statement, "Being a neighbour means ...". Replies should include being sensitive to their needs and loving them as we love ourselves. Christ made it clear to us. Everyone is our neighbour.



GOOD SAMARITAN PARAPHRASE

One day a traveller was walking along, humming to himself, thinking everything was fine, when out of the rocks jumped three of the meanest guys he'd ever seen. They started to beat him up. Two of them grabbed his arms while the other punched him. The traveller broke free and started to fight back, but the guys knocked him down. The thieves grabbed his money and ran, hooting and leaping for joy.

As he lay groaning, along came an elderly priest, who was shocked when he saw the wounded man. The priest walked around him saying, "I'd help him, but I just put my good clothes on. I sure don't want blood all over me! Besides, I'm sure someone else will come by and help him out."

Next came a Levite. The man was still groaning. When the Levite saw and heard him, he said, "Oh, my, oh my, how awful!" and he thought about helping the man up, but then noticed what time it was. The Levite said to the man, "I'm late for Bible study, and I have to lead the lesson. I can't take time to help you now." And he hurried away.

Finally, along came a Samaritan who saw the man and was moved with compassion. The Samaritan looked around, wondering if the thieves were still nearby watching. If they beat up this Jew, they would surely do it to him, too. He began to leave, but then he forgot his fear. He walked over, bandaged the man, helped him up, and took him into town on his donkey. He got a room at an inn and took care of the man all night. When he left the next morning, he paid for a couple more nights of lodging for the man, and also asked the innkeeper to care for the man. He told the innkeeper that if he needed more money, he would pay it when he got back.



LESSON 19

Attitude Check Mark 12:41–44

MAIN OBJECTIVE

The Cadets will understand that God looks at our attitude of giving, not how much we give.

INTRO ACTIVITY

Make up some top-five lists with your guys. These are great starters for discussions. You can ask the guys to list the top five of many different topics. Categories/ideas for these lists include animals, vehicles, movies, sports stars, songs, vacations, books, etc. After you've done some fun ones, have them list five of the most generous people they can think of. Ask them what makes these people generous.

THEME INTRODUCTION

Josh and Tony were sitting together during church one Sunday. As the offering plate was being passed down the rows, Josh leaned over to Tony and wondered, "Do you think God cares how much money we put in the offering plate?"

Tony replied, "No, I think He cares more about how much we keep in our pockets."

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

1. Fill in the missing words from Mark 12:41–44.

Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a fraction of a penny. Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything — all she had to live on."

- ▶ Compare the offerings of the rich people and the poor widow.

The offering pot was placed at the temple in plain view of anyone who was waiting around the area. Jesus sat down across from the offering pot and just watched people. He noticed many rich people putting in lots of money. They probably made a big production of it, making sure people noticed their giving. Then he noticed a poor widow head to the pot and put in just a couple of small coins.

- ▶ What point did Jesus make to His disciples regarding the gifts of these people?

Jesus pointed out that the rich folks gave a small fraction of their great wealth. After giving at the temple, they had plenty left for themselves. But the widow gave all she had to live on. She put in everything. The woman's gift was given sacrificially.

2. What does 2 Corinthians 9:7 say about our giving to God?

God looks at our attitude when we give to Him. It doesn't matter how much we give, but how we give it.

3. When we give to God, what makes our gifts acceptable to Him (2 Corinthians 8:12)?

Again, it is our attitude of willingness. Are we gladly, cheerfully, and willingly giving our gift, or are we reluctant and wishing we didn't have to give so much or any at all?

4. How is God generous to us (Ephesians 1:4–8)?

God's generosity to us is so great! He redeems and adopts us through Christ's sacrifice. There's sacrificial giving again! He forgives us and "lavishes" his grace on us, giving us wisdom and understanding.

5. How can we change our giving attitudes from grudging to cheerful, willing, and generous?

Looking at how much God has given us helps us give more cheerfully and willingly. Keeping our eyes focused on the One who gave us so much limits how much we can focus on the things of this world around us. The pleasures of things are not nearly as important as our relationship with our precious Saviour. Giving back to him comes naturally.

6. What other ways can you think of to be generous in God's name? How many of these are you doing?

God wants more than our money. He wants all of us. As believers, our lives should be devoted to serving Him as our gift of thanks for all He has so generously given us. We can give our time and energy — helping with chores, assisting a younger child with homework or reading to him, working in the church nursery, picking up papers

or straightening song books in church while our parents talk. We can be generous with praise — to God and to others. Everyone appreciates encouragement and praise. We can share what we have with others — your lunch with someone who forgot theirs; books, toys, clothes with homeless shelters.

LET'S REMEMBER

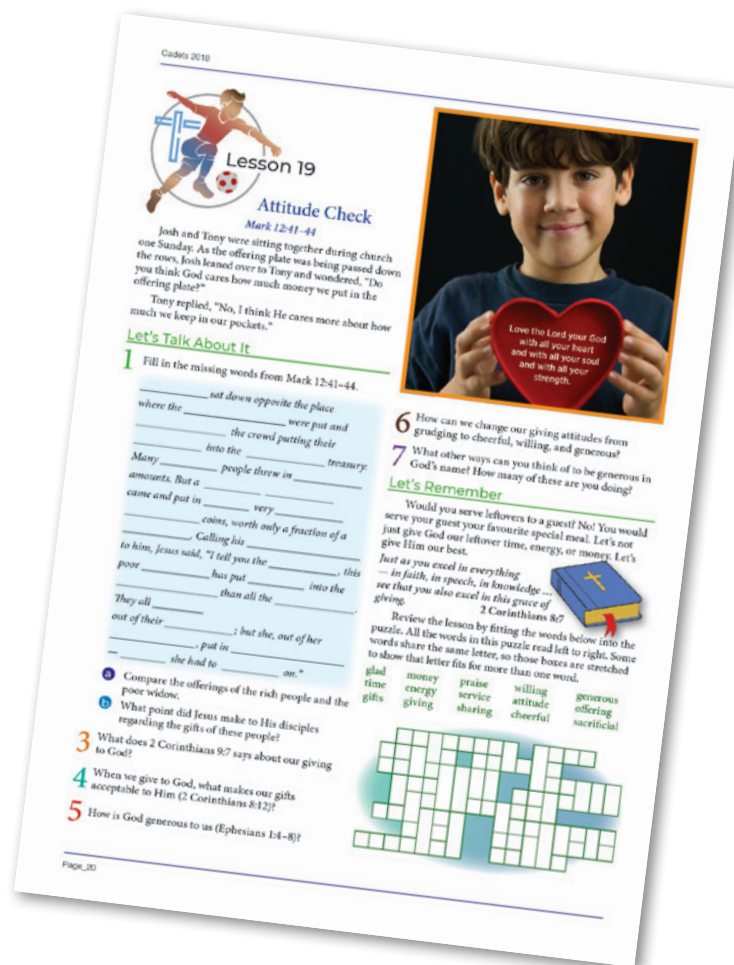
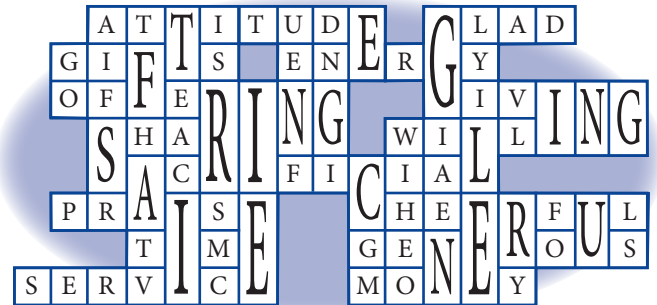
Would you serve leftovers to a guest? No! You would serve your guest your favourite special meal. Let's not just give God our leftover time, energy, or money. Let's give Him our best.

Just as you excel in everything — in faith, in speech, in knowledge ... see that you also excel in this grace of giving.

2 Corinthians 8:7

Review the lesson by fitting the words below into the puzzle. All the words in this puzzle read left to right. Some words share the same letter, so those boxes are stretched to show that letter fits for more than one word.

- glad
- money
- praise
- willing
- generous
- time
- energy
- service
- attitude
- offering
- gifts
- giving
- sharing
- cheerful
- sacrificial





LESSON 20

Be Prepared Mark 14:27–72

MAIN OBJECTIVE

Cadets will realize that God makes dynamic Christian leaders out of common sinful men.

SECONDARY OBJECTIVES

1. Cadets will learn how quickly Satan can take control of them, just as he did with Peter.
2. Cadets will learn Peter's guidelines to Christian living and how these relate to them.

INTRO ACTIVITY

Materials needed: lazy Susan or other flat item that spins

Take along a lazy Susan, a turnable storage unit to hold spices in your cupboard, or anything else you may have that spins. Use it to illustrate how things placed in the centre are less likely to fall off when you spin it than the items sitting near the edges. A merry-go-round illustrates the same thing. If you are not holding on near the centre of the merry-go-round, you will have trouble staying on as it spins.

THEME INTRODUCTION

Next door neighbours Jason and Angela are good friends and spend hours playing basketball together. They are pretty evenly matched, so their one-on-one games are great fun. They go to the same church, but attend different schools. One day Jason came home from school with his classmate Dylan, the star player on their school's team. The two boys relaxed in the backyard with a snack.

Angela was shooting hoops in her driveway. As she played, she overheard Dylan and Jason talking. He heard Dylan tell Jason that his neighbour looked and played basketball like a wimpy girl. Angela expected Jason to defend her, but was shocked to hear Jason's reply.

"Yeah, she's okay for a girl! I can beat her any day.

I only play with her because she lives next door, not because she's any good. Besides there's no one else around here to play with."

As he finished saying this, Jason looked up and saw Angela looking back at him with a hurt expression. When he saw that Angela had heard him, he realized how nasty he had been and felt terrible. He had betrayed his friend.

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

1. Share a time when someone told you about something that was going to happen to you. Did you believe them?

The boys should be able to come up with an event that they were told about (i.e. taking a special trip, or that you won a great prize, like lots of money or a TV). Sometimes we are told about events that someone else has planned for us. If the event is something quite normal for us/our family, we have no problem believing it. But if the event is pretty unusual, we might say, "No way! I don't believe you."

2. Jesus told Peter about something that was going to happen. What was it (Mark 14:30)? How did Peter respond (vs. 31)? What actually happened (vs. 66–71)?

- Jesus predicted that Peter would disown Him.
- Peter insisted that this was impossible. He and Jesus were friends. If Jesus were to die, Peter was going to die with Him.
- Not only did Peter disown Jesus, but he cursed and swore that he had no idea who Jesus was.

3. How did Peter react when he realized what he had done (Luke 22:61–62)?

Peter broke down and cried when Jesus' eyes met his. Peter realized what a sinner he was. Even though he had been a close friend of Jesus for three years, and even though Jesus said that Peter would be the rock upon which the church would be built, Satan completely overpowered Peter. Satan did it to Peter and he does it to us. The beautiful lesson we learn from Peter is to be completely sorry for our sin and seek forgiveness.

4. After Jesus' resurrection, Peter rejoiced in knowing the power of Christ's forgiving love. For the next 30 years, he preached that good news wherever he went.

God, through Peter, has a lot to tell us. What are some of the instructions Peter gives us?
Use the fish code to find your answers.



- P R E P A R E your M I N D S
for A C T I O N.
- Set your H O P E fully on the
G R A C E to be given you when
J E S U S is revealed.
- Do not C O N F O R M to E V I L
D E S I R E S you had when you lived
in ignorance.
- Be H O L Y in all you do.

- Prepare your minds for action by being alert. (What type of action?)
- Set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed. (What is the grace?)
- Do not conform to evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. (Ignorance of what? What evil desires do 11-year-old boys have?)
- Be holy in all you do. (The emphasis here is on “all” — i.e., watching TV, eating, doing homework, goofing off — all you do!)

5. Peter has advice for us in 1 Peter 1:13-16; 5:8. What is it and why is it so important?

We need to be on guard (be alert) so we don't give Satan a foothold into our lives. This advice from Peter came as a result of the lesson he learned (question 2) when he denied Jesus. Peter learned the hard way how quickly Satan can mess us up.

Ask the boys what Jason (from our introduction) should have replied to Dylan's negative comment about Kevin.

LET'S REMEMBER

Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

1 Peter 5:8

Go back to the lazy Susan/merry-go-round illustration from the beginning of the lesson and use it to remind the guys that they need to stay focused on Jesus (hanging on tightly) so they don't suddenly find themselves in the clutches of Satan — off the merry-go-round and unable to get back on. Satan likes to lull us into believing the Christian life is just a nice simple ride and we can do what we want along with going to church. But that's when we end up falling off and struggling. Living the Christian life according to the Bible is challenging. Satan is going to attempt to get us off track any way he can. So hang on tight to Jesus.

Lesson 20
Be Prepared
Mark 14:27-72

Next-door neighbours Jason and Angela are good friends and spend hours playing basketball together. They are pretty evenly matched so their one-on-one games are great fun. They go to the same church, but attend different schools. One day Jason came home from school with his classmate Dylan, the star player on their school's team. The two boys relaxed in the backyard with a snack.

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"Yeah, she's okay for a girl! I can beat her any day. I only play with her because she lives next door, not because she's any good. Besides there's no one else around here to play with."

As he finished saying this, Jason looked up and saw Angela looking back at him with a hurt expression. When he saw that Angela had heard him, he realized how nasty he had been and felt terrible. He had betrayed his friend.

Let's Talk About It

- 1 Share a time when someone told you about something that was going to happen to you. Did you believe them?
- 2 Jesus told Peter about something that was going to happen. What was it (Mark 14:30)? How did Peter respond (vs. 31)? What actually happened (vs. 66-71)?
- 3 How did Peter react when he realized what he had done (Luke 22:61-62)?
- 4 After Jesus' resurrection, Peter rejoiced in knowing the power of Christ's forgiving love. For the next 30 years, he preached that good news wherever he went. God, through Peter, has a lot to tell us. Read 1 Peter 1:13-16. What are the instructions Peter gives us? Use the fish code to find your answers.
- 5 Peter has one last piece of advice in 1 Peter 5:8. What is it and why does Peter think it is so important?

Let's Remember
Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. 1 Peter 5:8

Theme Discussion

God's Way Isn't Always Easy

INTRODUCTION

Someone has said that peer pressure is “that hungry urge to conform to the standards of others without any conscious or reasonable personal decision to do so.” You find yourself doing things just to fit in or to please other people.

It's not easy for the boys to be Living for Jesus on a day in and day out basis. There are many outside influences, and the Cadet years are the time in a boy's development when peer acceptance is a huge factor. Boys are trying to determine who they are and what their place in this world is.

ACTIVITY

Have a table set up in your room. Boys holding signs indicating some of the outside influences experienced by a Cadet (e.g. too busy, too tired, friends, movies/TV, music, computer games, sports, things you like to do, homework) should be lined up on both sides of the table. One Cadet should be at the end of the table with a ping-pong ball. He is to blow the ball across to the other end of the table. If the table is long enough he could even crawl across the table as he goes.

The boys on either side should give puffs of air (not so strong that it is impossible for the Cadet to make it to the end, but strong enough to possibly blow the ball off the sides) to hinder the process. These puffs are not consistent, but just blow now and then at random times.

If the ball does go off the side, a counsellor can pick it up and put it back in place to allow the Cadet to continue trying to make it to the end.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. There were likely one or two boys along side the table that blew harder than the others, making it more difficult for the Cadet to keep the ball straight down the middle. Have the boys discuss what pressures they feel are the hardest in their lives to resist.
2. If the ball went off the side of the table a counsellor was there to keep the boy going. What influences do the Cadets have in their lives that may help them continue going in the path God has for them.
3. Ask the boys what would have made it easier for them to get the ball to the end and keep the ball on the table.
 - a) Having bumpers would help, but a strong gust can blow the ping-pong ball over the bumper. People that God has put in our lives can act as bumpers. (You can retry the activity with some of the Cadets along the side being positive influences, only blowing when it will help keep the ball on the table
 - b) Having a strong electric fan would help too. God can be our fan, even when we stop blowing ourselves God continues to move us along.

How easy it is to give in to the crowd and be pressured. Doing the right thing can have unpleasant consequences such as being made fun of, social rejection, and few friends. Don't let circumstances or people's expectations control you. We need to stand true to God and refuse to compromise His standards for living.



LESSON 21

Wearing a Cross

Mark 15

MAIN OBJECTIVE

Each Cadet will understand Jesus' purpose in coming to earth.

SECONDARY OBJECTIVES

1. The boys will recall the suffering and mockery Jesus endured.
2. They will understand that even as He died, He was the Son of God.

INTRO ACTIVITY #1 (CHOOSE ACTIVITY #1 OR #2)

Materials needed: paper chain with 12 links

Make a simple paper chain with twelve links. Write "God" on the first link and "Man" on the last link. On each link in between, write one of the Ten Commandments. Ask the boys if they can say they have kept all of the commandments. If they're honest, they have to admit that they haven't. It's probably easiest to admit that they have lied. Ask how many broken commands it takes to separate us from God. Break the chain at the link of the commandment most admit to breaking. Explain that breaking even one command separates us from God. Even one sin makes Jesus' sacrifice necessary.

INTRO ACTIVITY #2

Materials needed: bulls eye target, masking or duct tape, paper for each boy

Place a bulls eye target on a wall. Write "God" in large letters on the centre of the target. Mark a line on the floor with tape. This will be the throw line. Be sure to make this a good distance so that no one will be able to reach the target with a paper airplane.

Give each boy a sheet of paper and tell them to make paper airplanes. Then show them the target and explain that it represents God. The space between the throw line and the target represents our sin, which separates us from God. The paper airplanes represent all our efforts to earn our way to heaven — all our good works. Tell them to throw their airplanes to reach the bulls eye.

After all have tried and failed, tell them that the Bible says we have all sinned and fall short of God's glory (Romans 3:23). None of us can reach God's perfect holiness. Just as some got closer to the target, some people on earth do more good things during their lives, but they still miss the mark. The only way to get across the gulf of sin is through Jesus.

THEME INTRODUCTION

Many people wear cross necklaces or earrings. They are always in style. Some are simple and others are fancy jewellery with diamonds in them.

But the most famous person to wear a cross wasn't wearing it as a fashion statement. He was on the way to His death. Jesus wore a cross on His back. The soldiers nailed Him to it and placed Him where everyone could see Him. Some of the people made fun of Him (Matthew 27:39), some thought He was a common criminal (John 19:23-24, 31-34), and some wept for Him (Luke 23:27). But some were impressed — especially one man.

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

1. Tell what you know about these words or phrases from Mark 15.

Complete the word search. *The words in the phrases are in the puzzle separately.*

- dead
- tomb
- Simon
- stone
- Joseph
- Pilate
- Barabbas
- darkness
- Golgotha
- soldiers
- centurion
- crucify Him
- torn curtain
- King of the Jews



The words in the puzzle include:

- **Dead** — Jesus was really dead!
- **Tomb** — He was actually buried.
- **Simon** carried the cross when it became too heavy for Jesus.
- **Stone** was placed in front of the tomb to close the grave and to ensure the body of Jesus against theft.
- **Joseph** asked Pilate for permission to bury Jesus. Jesus was buried in his tomb.
- **Pilate** was the Roman leader who condemned Jesus to death.

- **Barabbas** was a proven criminal. The Jews decided to free him (Jewish custom allowed one pardon at the time of the Passover) and to crucify Jesus.
- **Darkness** covered the world from the sixth to the ninth hour. It symbolizes the darkness of sin.
- **Golgotha** (place of the skull) was the little hill just outside town where the cross was placed.
- **Soldiers** mocked and whipped Jesus, divided His clothes, and guarded His tomb.
- **Centurion** was in command at the crucifixion. He testified powerfully about Jesus that, “Surely this was the Son of God.”
- “**Crucify Him**” was the cry of the Jewish people.
- **Torn curtain** — When Jesus died, the curtain dividing the temple was torn. This symbolized that the Most Holy Place was no longer necessary. God was everywhere with His people.
- “**King of the Jews**” was written on the sign put over Jesus’ head. Nobody realized how true it was.

2. **What did Jesus say in verse 5? Why (Isaiah 53:7)?**

Jesus said nothing. By saying nothing, Jesus fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah. Many aspects of Jesus’ birth, life, and death had been prophesied hundreds of years earlier. Jesus fulfilled them all.

3. **Why did the Jewish leaders want Jesus killed (Mark 15:10)? Knowing their reason, why did Pilate have Jesus put to death (vs. 15 and John 19:12–16)?**

The leaders wanted Jesus killed because of envy and jealousy and Pilate knew this. He agreed to it because he feared the mob and the Jewish leaders threatened to tell Caesar he had released a man claiming to be king (John 19:12–16).

4. **What does it mean to mock? How did the soldiers and the Jews mock Jesus (Mark 15:17–19, 29–32)?**

To mock someone means to make fun of them, call them names, and say bad things about them. The soldiers mocked Jesus by:

- Clothing Him in purple robes.
- Putting a crown of thorns on His head.
- Saluting Him with “Hail, King of the Jews.”
- Hitting Him on the head with a staff.
- Spitting on Him.
- Kneeling (bowing) down and pretending to worship Him.

The Jews mocked Jesus by saying:

- “You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself.”
- “He saved others, but He can’t save Himself!”
- “Come down now from the cross, that we may see and believe that you are the Christ.”

5. **Why didn’t Jesus use His power to come down from the cross (Philippians 2:8; Hebrews 9:22)?**

He was obedient to His Father. He had been sent to die, and that was the only way He could save us from our sins. Take some time to explain the concept of vicarious atonement. Be sure to put it in words they can understand. (Jesus’ blood is payment to God for human sins.)

6. **How did those who watched Jesus die feel afterwards (Luke 23:48)?**

The phrase “beat one’s breast” isn’t used much anymore, but at the time the Bible was written, it was used as an expression of grief, sorrow, remorse, and disappointment. Those who saw and witnessed the crucifixion of Jesus went home with very mixed emotions.

7. **What did the centurion say about Jesus after He died (Mark 15:39)? What prophecy of Jesus does this fulfil (John 12:32)? Do you think this prophecy has been completely fulfilled? Are you included in that prophecy? What is your reaction to the crucifixion of Jesus?**

The centurion said, “Surely, this man was the Son of God!” The centurion had seen Jesus die, heard Him cry out, felt the darkness, and heard and felt the earthquake. This was no ordinary death. He had probably witnessed many crucifixions, but he had never seen anyone like Jesus.

In John 12, Jesus prophesied, “When I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw all men to myself.” He was talking about how His crucifixion would cause people to believe in Him. This prophecy is not completely fulfilled. As people recognize that Jesus is the Son of God and Saviour of the world, they are drawn to the cross.

Have you come to Jesus? Do you believe the cross makes the forgiveness of your sins possible?

LET’S REMEMBER

And when the centurion, who stood there in front of Jesus, saw how he died, he said, “Surely this man was the Son of God!”
Mark 15:39





LESSON 22 Hard to Believe! Mark 16

MAIN OBJECTIVE

Each Cadet will understand that the resurrection is the guarantee of our eternal life and our hope of heaven.

SECONDARY OBJECTIVES

1. The boys will be able to list the evidence of Jesus' resurrection.
2. They will understand the importance of believing — either by seeing or by faith.

INTRO ACTIVITY

Materials needed: a copy of *Ripley's Believe It or Not*. (You should be able to get a copy at your local library. If that isn't possible, you can get some cartoon facts from their website — www.ripleys.com.)

Talk about how hard it is to believe some of the stories you read. But whether we believe it or not, they are true.

THEME INTRODUCTION

Ripley's Believe It or Not! is a book filled with hard-to-believe facts. One man ate 27 chickens in one sitting. A woman had almost 100 children.

Some people have accused Christianity of being hard to believe. They point to the resurrection of Jesus and don't believe that someone could rise from the dead.

Even the disciples found this hard to believe. When Mary Magdalene told them she had seen Jesus alive, they doubted her. Thomas didn't believe it until he actually saw and touched Jesus.

Many people today still don't believe. But the evidence is clear in the Bible — Jesus is risen!

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

1. Read Mark 16:1–14 and John 20:1–9. List the evidence that Jesus is risen.
 - Stone rolled away (Mark 16:4)
 - The angel said so (vs. 5–6)
 - Jesus appeared to Mary Magdalene (vs. 9)
 - Jesus appeared to two men (vs. 12)
 - Jesus appeared to the eleven (vs. 14)
 - The tomb was empty (John 20:2)
 - Grave clothes were folded (vs. 6–7)
 - The Bible says so! (vs. 9)
2. On what day did Jesus arise (vs. 2)? Why is that important?

Jesus arose on Sunday. This is important because ...

- Jesus said He would rise on the third day. Sunday is the third day after His death.
- We now celebrate Sunday instead of the Sabbath (Saturday) because Jesus arose on the first day of the week.

3. Who was the young man in verse 5? What was he doing there (Matthew 28:2)? What did he say to the women?

The young man was an angel, who had come to roll the stone away. He told the women that Jesus was not there; He had risen from the dead. He was alive!

4. How did the disciples react when people reported that they had seen Jesus (Mark 16:11,13)? What convinced them that Jesus was alive? What did Jesus say about those who believe without seeing Him (John 20:29)?

When the disciples heard that Jesus was alive, they did not believe. They were convinced only when they saw Him. Jesus said that those who believe without actually seeing Him are blessed.

5. Why is Jesus' resurrection so important (1 Corinthians 15:17–22)? How would your life be different if it had never happened?

The central truth of Christianity is the resurrection. Christ's resurrection is the guarantee of our eternal life. Without it, we would have no hope of heaven.

6. What was Jesus' last command to His disciples (Mark 16:15)? Did they follow His command (vs. 20)? Write the words of verse 15 on the lines below and then fit them into the puzzle. Be sure to use the NIV Bible.

He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation."

The disciples obeyed Jesus' command. They preached everywhere. The Lord showed His blessing on their work by allowing miraculous signs to be done.

7. Forty days after Jesus arose, He left again. This is called Ascension Day. Where is Jesus today (vs. 19)? How did He get there?

Jesus is at the right hand of God the Father. He ascended into heaven on a cloud (Acts 1:9).

LET'S REMEMBER

"Don't be alarmed," he said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here."

Mark 16:6



LESSON 23

Be On Guard 2 Peter 3:1–18

MAIN OBJECTIVE

Cadets will realize that Jesus is definitely coming back, and that they need to watch and be ready for His return.

INTRO ACTIVITY

Materials needed: calendar

Ask the boys how many days are left before the end of the school year. Don't be surprised if your boys know the number exactly. If they don't know, check together how long it will be on your calendar. Then ask, "How will you feel on the last day of school?" Let them share their feelings about the approaching end of the school year.

Ask how they would feel if the number of days left in school was uncertain? School may be over tomorrow, or it may not be over for another three months. The principal is using his own time frame that no one else knows. How frustrated we would be if we knew that we were supposed to be getting out soon, but we didn't know when!

THEME INTRODUCTION

Another Cadet season is ending. We have worked hard on badges and projects, made new friends, and learned a lot about Jesus' ministry on earth. We saw His power over sickness, demons, and even death. We learned from His teachings and discovered how to be salty Christians by following our Cadet Code. Through Peter's life, we saw how easily Satan can get us to do wrong when we are not focused on God.

We learned why Jesus had to die and what it means to follow Him. We found out why it was important to us that He rose again. Through it all, we discovered that God is working in us. Let's wrap up this season by looking at Peter's final words to us.

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

1. After His resurrection, Jesus spent 40 days with His friends, and then He ascended into heaven. But Jesus had told His disciples about the end times and His return. When is Jesus coming again (Mark 13:32, Revelation 22:12)?

In Revelation, we learn that He is coming soon. But the passage in Mark makes it clear that no one knows when that will be, except God the Father.

2. Describe the time frame that God uses (2 Peter 3:8).

God doesn't operate under the same 24 hour-per-day time reference as we do. God's day could be like 1000 years, or 1000 years could be like a day.

3. What do we know about the day when Christ comes again (vs. 10,12)?

We are certain that the day of the Lord will come. Christ will come like a thief, when we least expect Him. And it will be a pretty rough day for earth. The sky and earth as we know them will be destroyed.

4. As Christians, what do we look forward to (vs. 13)?

As Christians, we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth. Jesus' second coming will be much more exciting than the end of the school year or a special vacation we have planned!

5. What should Christians be most concerned about while we wait for Jesus' return (vs. 17, Mark 13:33–36)?

We must be ready for His return. We don't want to be caught unprepared. Peter warns us to be on our guard so we are not carried away by those who continue in sin. Jesus warned His disciples to be on guard in Mark 13:5, 9, 23, and 33. It is really important because He repeated it four times!

6. What suggestions does the Bible give for living prepared lives? Use the code to find out or look it up in 2 Peter 3:11–12, 14, 18.

	□	●	◆	○	■
4	A	E	I	O	U
3	B	C	D	G	H
2	K	L	M	N	P
1	R	S	T	W	Y

We are to make every effort to live H O L Y,
③ ④ ② ①

G O D L Y lives, and to be found
③ ④ ③ ② ①

S P O T L E S S, and
① ② ④ ① ② ④ ① ①

B L A M E L E S S, and at
③ ② ④ ② ④ ② ④ ① ①

P E A C E with God. We need to
② ④ ④ ③ ④

G R O W in the G R A C E and
③ ① ④ ① ③ ① ④ ③ ④

K N O W L E D G E of God.
② ② ④ ① ② ④ ③ ③ ④

7. Think about what Jesus means to you and how you can let Him know. Finish the statement:

Because of what Jesus Christ did for me on the cross, I...

You have been with your Cadets for at least one season. Challenge (but don't force) them to share what Jesus means to them, and how they intend to live a life of thankfulness. Ask them if their ideas would change if they had only one month to live. Are they living as if Jesus' return will be soon? Help your Cadets evaluate their priorities. The list below can be copied and handed out to the boys. Ask them to rate the items listed from most important to least important. After they've finished, discuss their choices.

If I had only one month to live, I would:

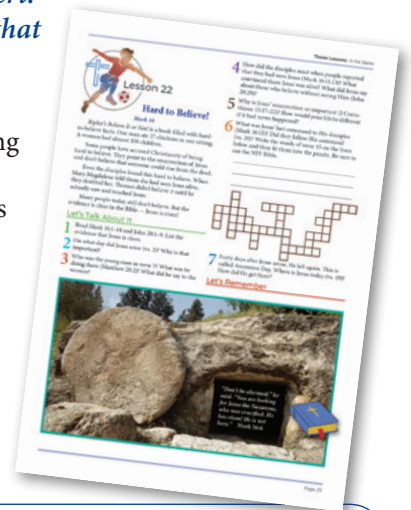
- ___ Perform some high risk feat that I have always wanted to do, figuring that if I don't make it, it won't really matter.
- ___ Stage an incredible robbery for a large amount of money, which I would immediately give to the needy and starving of the world.
- ___ Tell no one.
- ___ Spend all my time in prayer and Bible reading.
- ___ Make my own funeral arrangements.
- ___ Offer myself to science or medicine for experiments.
- ___ Have as much fun as possible.
- ___ Travel the world and see as much as possible.
- ___ Use a credit card to buy lots of stuff that I always wanted — expensive cars, clothes, and exotic foods — knowing that I won't ever have to pay the bills anyway.
- ___ Spend my last month with my family or close friends.
- ___ Not do anything much different; just go on as always.
- ___ Isolate myself from everyone; find a remote place and meditate.
- ___ Write a book about my life (or last month).
- ___ Sell all my possessions and give the money to my family, friends, or others who need it.
- ___ Sharing the way of salvation with as many people as I can.

LET'S REMEMBER

*“Be on guard! Be alert!
You do not know when that
time will come.”*

Mark 13:33

Close in prayer, asking God for the grace each one needs to live up to his commitment.



If I had only one month to live, I would:

- ___ Perform some high risk feat that I have always wanted to do, figuring that if I don't make it, it won't really matter.
- ___ Stage an incredible robbery for a large amount of money, which I would immediately give to the needy and starving of the world.
- ___ Tell no one.
- ___ Spend all my time in prayer and Bible reading.
- ___ Make my own funeral arrangements.
- ___ Offer myself to science or medicine for experiments.
- ___ Have as much fun as possible.
- ___ Travel the world and see as much as possible.
- ___ Use a credit card to buy lots of stuff that I always wanted — expensive cars, clothes, and exotic foods — knowing that I won't ever have to pay the bills anyway.
- ___ Spend my last month with my family or close friends.
- ___ Not do anything much different; just go on as always.
- ___ Isolate myself from everyone; find a remote place and meditate.
- ___ Write a book about my life (or last month).
- ___ Sell all my possessions and give the money to my family, friends, or others who need it.
- ___ Sharing the way of salvation with as many people as I can.

THE WAY TO HAPPINESS

The Real Facts of Life

1. I AM A SINNER

- 1 John 1:8 If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.
- 1 John 1:10 If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.

2. I AM SAVED (SET FREE) FROM ALL MY SINS BY CHRIST

We need to confess our sins:

- 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.

Christ paid the debt caused by our sins:

- 1 John 1:7c The blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.
- 1 John 2:1–2 If anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father — Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins.

Faith is being sure that what God has promised me in His Word will certainly come true, even if I can't see it now.

3. I WANT TO SERVE HIM DAILY OUT OF THANKS FOR SALVATION

- 1 John 2:5 If anyone obeys his word, love for God is truly made complete in them.
- 1 John 1:7b We have fellowship with one another.
- 1 John 2:6 Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did.
- 1 John 2:17 The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever.

Real happiness is being able to confess:

I am not my own but I belong, body and soul, in life and in death, to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ, who bought me with His precious blood to be His very own forever!

Are you really happy?

