



God's In Control

Joshua 1:9 • Cadets 2021 • 2022

Quest B Lessons

Based on the *Cadet Quest* Themes
Counselor 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 humor, 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 Savior 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 counselor 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.

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

Unless otherwise marked, scripture quotations in this publication are from the Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV® Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.® Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

Scriptures marked NLT are taken from the Holy Bible, New Living Translation, copyright © 1996, 2004, 2015 by Tyndale House Foundation. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved.

© copyright 2021 by the Calvinist Cadet Corps
Printed in USA
1333 Alger SE Grand Rapids, MI 49507
Canada: 261 Woodall Way, Woodstock, ON N4T 0K9

CONTENTS

The themes for *Cadet Quest* are the themes for this set of lessons.

September/October 2021 • God's In Control

Theme Discussion • God's In Control	4
Lesson 1 • God's In Control	5
Lesson 2 • God's In Control of Our Friendships	7
Lesson 3 • God's In Control of Our Families	9
Lesson 4 • God's In Control of Our Needs Part 1	11
Lesson 5 • God's In Control of Our Needs Part 2	13

November 2021 • Schools around the World

Theme Discussion • Turn of Burn	15
Lesson 6 • God's In Control of Our Learning	16
Lesson 7 • Are You Really Sorry?	18
Lesson 8 • Try To Live With Yourself	20

December 2021 • Health and Fitness

Theme Discussion • Cadets in Training	22
Lesson 9 • God's In Control of Our Hearts	23
Lesson 10 • Shadow Boxing	25
Lesson 11 • Running for the Crown	27

January 2022 • Racism

Theme Discussion • Favorite Flavors	29
Lesson 12 • God's In Control of Our Battles	31
Lesson 13 • Love Your Neighbor	33
Lesson 14 • Were All Alike	35

February 2022 • Wierd and Wacky Sports

Theme Discussion • Wide, Long, High, Deep	37
Lesson 15 • God's In Control of Our Lives	38
Lesson 16 • I Belong!	40
Lesson 17 • Who Else Belongs?	42

March 2022 • Ukraine

Theme Discussion • Idol Worship	44
Lesson 18 • God's In Control of Watching Over You	45
Lesson 19 • What A Mighty God We Serve	47
Lesson 20 • God is Great, God is Good... ..	49

April/May 2022 • Bugs

Theme Discussion • Light Over Darkness	51
Lesson 21 • God's In Control of All Creation	52
Lesson 22 • The Way the Devil Lies to Us	54
Lesson 23 • How the Devil Fools Us	56

The Way To True Happiness 59

Help leading boys to Christ

Note

In the Bible lessons, everything printed in black also appears in the *Quest*.
Everything in printed in Red is counselor helps.

September/October *Cadet Quest* Theme Discussion

God's In Control

Our theme for the Cadet season is God's In Control. Through the year we will show the boys the benefits of maintaining a reliance upon God and knowing that He is in control. The boys will learn how relying on God, in times of fear or anxiety, can bring a feeling of strength and courage, knowing they can make it through with God on their side.

To start off the Cadet season you can play a game of "Get Lost" with the boys. This will help them get to know each other a little, and will work as an introduction to the theme. If you don't wish to play the game, but would like something fun, play the VeggieTales episode Where's God When I'm S-Scared?

Game play: Divide the boys into groups of 3 or 4. They can start off with a group of friends as the game will have them mixed up soon enough.

Read out a characteristic. The boys will need to learn enough about each other to determine who best meets the characteristic. Once the groups have determined their candidate you count down "One, two, three" and have all the groups say "Get Lost". The boy that best meets the definition must leave the group and find a new group. Each group will therefore lose one boy and gain one boy.

Play for a set number of rounds or, if you want to add some competition, eliminate the last group formed each round until you have one remaining group.

You can use characteristics from the list below, or make your own.

- **Name closest to letter "A"**
- **Oldest in the group**
- **Has the most pets**
- **Is the shortest**
- **Has the longest hair**
- **Lives closest to the church**
- **Longest last name**
- **Birthday closest to today**
- **Highest number street address**
- **Has the youngest sibling**
- **Has the largest pet**
- **Born the farthest away**

Discussion after playing.

In each round there were a lot of people rejected, and told to get lost. While only a game, this happens in real life as well.

Was there anything you could do to avoid rejection? No, there wasn't. Sometimes, in life, we don't get what we want, and there's nothing we can do about it.

As you realize it is just a game, did you have to worry about being rejected? No, they didn't. This was a game, with the counselor in charge. In life, God is in charge, making sure you don't really have to worry.

If everyone in your group was exactly the same, would it make the game better? No, the game only works with our differences. As we go through life, we can celebrate our differences, and the differences of others. We can grow more by associating with others.

We are told in Romans that all are lost because of our sinful nature, we don't have control over that. We can only be 'unlost', or saved, by God's grace. The requirement to receive this gift is to accept Jesus as the only means of salvation. God's in control of the situation and we need to play by His rules.

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

Lesson 1: God's In Control

Joshua 1:1-9

OBJECTIVES

1. The boys will realize God is in control of us and our world.
2. The boys will understand God wants control, not because He is power hungry, but because He knows what is best for us.
3. The boys will know God holds to His promises of looking after us.

INTRODUCTORY ACTIVITY

Materials Needed:

- A TV remote

Ask the boys if they know what you are holding. They should recognize it as a remote control.

Optional game: call out the names of the controls and have the boys act out the command: power on, play, change channel, mute, fast forward, volume up, rewind, pause, power off.

Ask them if they have ever argued with a sibling about who gets to have the controller. Why is it important to have possession of the remote?

Having the remote puts you in control. You can choose the channel, the volume, whether you want to rewind to see something again, or fast forward to skip something. The television can't do anything unless the person in control wants it to.

God wants to be in control of our lives. He wants to be able to control what we do because He knows what is best for us.

QUEST INTRODUCTION

Theo was sure glad his mom told him to pack his rain jacket for the camping trip. Theo had put his jacket on right as Counselor Mike was getting them to head out on a short hike. Part way through the hike it started to rain, and only Counselor Mike, Theo and one other boy had raincoats to protect them.

At first the rain came down lightly – not much more than a drizzle. But soon it rained harder and harder, and they heard thunder in the distance. Counselor Mike said that they better turn back to camp to get out of the rain. As the rain continued to pour down on them Theo was a little worried about his friends without rain jackets. He knew they would feel miserable getting all wet and cold from the rain. Eventually they got back to camp and were able to put on dry clothes and remain sheltered in their tent.

Theo crawled out of the tent once the rain stopped. He looked up at the sky and saw a beautiful double rainbow. It was the perfect thing to see after a tough hike in the rain.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think God had to tell Joshua three times to be strong and courageous?

Joshua was being given a momentous task by God. Joshua had been mentoring under Moses and would have seen how obstinate the Israelites could be, and now he was expected to lead them.

Hearing that God was in control and would be with him was not necessarily enough for Joshua to feel brave; human nature would make anyone afraid if God was speaking directly with them.

2. Read Genesis 9:8-16. Why did God give the sign of the rainbow?

As with Joshua in question 1, Noah was only human in being skeptical. He had just seen the entire world destroyed, what would stop God from doing it again? God knew He was in control. He was telling Noah of how his covenant was sure.

God wants us to be assured of His control over the world. The rainbow is just the visible sign to remind us of the covenant. There are many things each of us have which trigger memories, good and bad. God wanted to provide us with a memory trigger of His all-powerful, all-loving promises.

3. Describe a time when God reminded you of His promises.

It is very possible the boys will not be able to think of a situation. Be ready to share one of your own.

Many times, these stories involve a situation where we were in trouble or distress, and were comforted by the knowledge of God's promises of control, protection and love. There are times when the situation is a pleasant one – beautiful lakes, grandiose mountains, rippling brooks, a new-born infant, or a furry kitten can remind us of God's promises.

4. Read Psalm 139:7-10. What are we promised in these verses?

No matter where we go, or what we do, God’s presence is there with us. He would love to share His plans with us, if we will only let Him.

The darkness is not dark to Him. Whether we are in the darkness by choice, trying to flee from God and His plans for us, or if we are in the darkness because of circumstances we think are beyond our control, God is there. We need to relinquish our ideas of control, and let God take charge.

The psalmist, besides indicating there is no place he can go without God being there already, also assures us of the loving nature of God’s control. He guides, holds, and shines light on our paths.

5. Describe how your answer to question 4 can help you be strong and courageous.

If some of the boys are new to the group, they may not yet be comfortable sharing about times they aren’t strong and courageous, or where they would need help. Let them know Cadets is a safe place to share, you are all learning together, and will spend the year learning how God is in control.

6. Knowing that God is always watching over you and taking care of you—what can you now do to show Him your thanks?

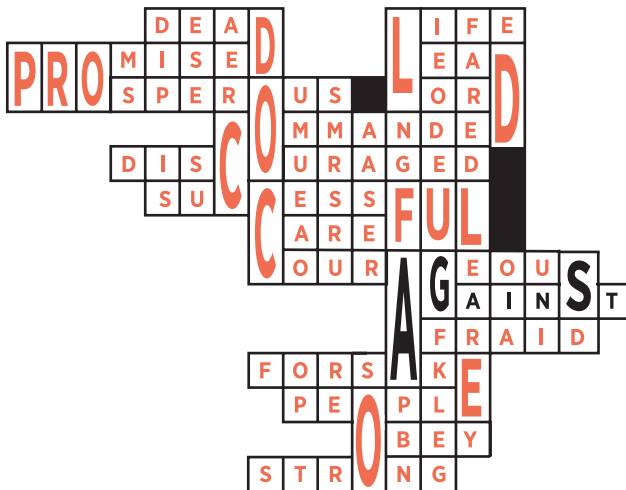
If you continue reading Psalm 139 you find where the psalmist indicates how he must praise God, because of how he has been fearfully and wonderfully made, how God’s works are wonderful, and how God has ordained all of our days even before we were born.

As a young child we say thanks to someone who helps us cross the street, or tie our shoes, or protects us from a scary dog, how much more should we be grateful for a God who guides, protects, and has everything under control.

PUZZLE

Use the list of words from today’s scripture to fill in the stretch puzzle. One word has been filled in for you

- | | | |
|------------|-------------|------------|
| AFRAID | DISCOURAGED | PEOPLE |
| AGAINST | FORSAKE | PROMISED |
| CAREFUL | LEAD | PROSPEROUS |
| COMMANDED | LIFE | STRONG |
| COURAGEOUS | LORD | SUCCESSFUL |
| DEAD | OBEY | |



REMEMBER

Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. The LORD, the LORD himself, is my strength and my defense; he has become my salvation.” Isaiah 12:2

Say a prayer of thanks to God for His love and His care for you. (Be specific in your prayer!).

Lesson 2:

God's In Control of Our Friendships

Joshua 1:6-9

OBJECTIVES

1. The boys will realize that besides forgiving our enemies, we must also forgive our friends.
2. The boys will understand that it can take work to build a good relationship with someone.

INTRODUCTORY ACTIVITY

Materials Needed:

- Several objects for the boys to place on their heads, some should be soft and easy to keep on the head, others difficult to balance.

With the objects on the table, ask the boys if they are capable of controlling them.

Ask for a volunteer cadet, and have him carry the items across the room, one at a time. Each of the items should be easy to handle.

A second cadet should then be asked to transport the items across the room by balancing them on his head. He may make it across the room without some falling, but others are bound to fall. Have the boy apologize to you for dropping your item and not fulfilling the task.

Discuss with the boys how sometimes things are outside of our control. What may be a good relationship with someone most days can hit a rough spot. It may be out of our control, but apologizing and/or showing mercy can go a long way to patching things.

QUEST INTRODUCTION

Theo had a big problem. He and Bill got into a fight at the church right before leaving for the campout, and now Bill was going to be sleeping next to him in the tent. Every cadre had to set up their own tent and Bill and Theo had argued over where the tent should be. Then they couldn't agree on how best to put the tent together.

As the arguing continued, Theo thought to himself, "This is going to be a long, long campout if Bill is going to keep on arguing with me all the time." Theo didn't think there would be any way to fix this problem — it was too big.

Counselor Wayne noticed Theo was not his cheerful self and asked him about it. After listening, Counselor Wayne said, "I am sure that you have already prayed to God about this, asking Him to give you a good campout; but have you prayed for Bill to have a good campout too?" Theo didn't know what to say to this. He had never really considered praying for a person he was upset with. With nothing to lose, he decided to try it, and was surprised to find his attitude getting better and better.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When was the last time you got into an argument with a friend?

Have the boys give examples. Keep the discussion at a high level, there is no need to get into blaming and arguing, especially if it is an argument between two boys in the cadre.

Have the boys realize that even in good relationships, sometimes people disagree, and our human nature doesn't lend itself to proper resolutions all the time.

2. Arguing isn't fun and the more we argue the more miserable we feel. What is one thing we could do to stop ourselves from arguing?

The boys may come up with different responses, there is no one solution that works for all people. Give any personal examples of strategies that work for you.

We need to remind ourselves to look at things from the other person's point of view.

We need to realize we are not always right.

We need to allow others to have their way.

Instead of deciding 'this' or 'that' we can look for a resolution in the middle.

3. Read 2 Timothy 2:23-24. What do these verses tell us to do?

The simple answer is to just avoid silly arguments. This is easier said than done. Verse 24 gives us the alternative action – be kind to everyone. If we go through life with the chosen attitude of attempting to be kind to everyone, we will find ourselves in fewer arguments. The last two words of v. 24 may be the toughest part. We cannot be resentful whenever something doesn't go our way.

4. It isn't easy to stop arguing and change our attitude about the other person. Read Luke 6:27-28. Explain how you might do this.

Have the boys give personal answers. Dig down and have them come up with a concrete action that they can do in the next few days.

In a way these get easier, but not necessarily less effective, as you go. Doing good to somebody you don't get along with is tough. When your adversary is right in front of you, it often brings out your worst behavior, not your best. Showing love by example of your actions can be a powerful thing.

Blessing someone in response to a curse could be enacted by saying something pleasant when they say something mean to you. Kind words can stay in the other person's mind for a long time. This could have a lasting effect.

Praying for someone can be easy; you can pray at home, they don't need to know you're doing it. But prayer is the most powerful tool you have. Prayer should not just be to "change the other person", you should also be praying for your own attitude and actions towards them.

5. What do you think it means to be merciful? Luke 6:36.

The dictionary defines merciful as "bringing someone relief from something unpleasant."

When we think of God being merciful, we think of how He does not treat us the way our actions deserve.

For us to be merciful to others we do not treat our adversaries in a negative manner. We need to be kind and loving in all circumstances. We need to do unto them the way we would have them do unto us, not the way they have done unto us.

6. Re-read the verses from Joshua. How can we have the strength to change our attitudes and better our relationships?

We need to rely on Christ in order to do this. Strength and courage come from knowing, and following, His laws. No matter what the televangelists and motivational speakers say on TV and YouTube, this is not a self-help opportunity. We do not have it within ourselves to become better people.

These words from God to Joshua give a list of expectations God has. The last line of verse 8 states "Then you will be . . ." It is straight forward, do this then that.

PUZZLE

Use the code to see what this verse has to say about friendship.

DOEVSJGIAERTFNPCHUWOY												
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11		
P U T			U P		W I T H							
8	9,10	6,7	9,10	8	10	4,5	6,7	9				
E A C H			O T H E R				A N D					
2	5	8,9	9	1,2	6,7	9	5,6	6	5	7,8	1	
F O R G I V E			A N Y O N E									
7	1,2	6	4	4,5	2,3	2	5	7,8	11	10,11	7,8	5,6
W H O			D O E S			Y O U						
10	9	1,2	1	10,11	2	3	11	1,2	9,10			
W R O N G				J U S T			A S					
10	6	10,11	7,8	4	3,4	9,10	3	6,7	5	3		
C H R I S T			F O R G A V E									
8,9	9	6	4,5	3	6,7	7	1,2	6	4	5	2,3	2
Y O U			COLOSSIANS 3:13 CEV									
11	10,11	9,10										

REMEMBER

When I am afraid, I put my trust in you. In God, whose word I praise— in God I trust and am not afraid.

What can mere mortals do to me? Psalm 56:3-4

Think of a person who you could have a better relationship with but you disagree with them about something. Show that person mercy this week.

Lesson 3: God's In Control of Our Families

Genesis 45: 4-7, & 12-15

OBJECTIVES

1. The boys will realize the importance of forgiving those close to them.
2. The boys will see how God is in control of the relationships we have with family members.

INTRODUCTORY ACTIVITY

Materials Needed:

- Ground black pepper
- Plate or bowl
- Water
- Dish soap

Place some water on the plate or in the bowl. It does not need to be very deep. Sprinkle a liberal amount of pepper on the water. Tell the boys the pepper is like a sin in our lives, it has lots of components and effects. If we try to take one out, the others will just take its place. You can dip your finger in, trying to remove some of the pepper, but it will be futile. Place a small amount of soap on your fingertip and dip your finger in the water. The pepper should all spread to the edges of the water. Your life is cleared up. God's forgiveness gets rid of all the effects of sin. None of them remain central in our lives.

We need to take the same approach when we forgive others. We can't hold a grudge, or bring up sins later on.

QUEST INTRODUCTION

Theo looked everywhere for his pocket knife. Two days before the campout, his grandpa had given him the knife, telling Theo it was his to sharpen and to take care of. Theo knew that he had it with him at lunch time, when he had shown it to his brother Mike, but now he couldn't find it. Mike was excited to see it and had asked Theo if he could borrow it. Theo lent Mike the knife, as long as he put it on the table when he was done with it.

Mike said that's exactly what he did, put it on the table when he was done. After five more minutes of frantic searching, Counselor Jerry asked Mike to empty his pockets. Sure enough, there was the pocket knife.

Theo was upset for hours. His brother had tried to keep the knife for himself and lied about it. Counselor Jerry said that if Mike asked for his brother to forgive him, then Theo should forgive him. "Forgiveness doesn't come easy," said Counselor Jerry, "but you must also remember all the times that God has forgiven you."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think Joseph was able to forgive his brothers?

Joseph was not able to do this on his own. He had time to think about this, and he realized how it was all part of God's plan. He put God's plan ahead of his own emotions, which allowed him to grant forgiveness. Verses 14-15 show the love Joseph had for his brothers. A familial love is a binding commitment to each other where you do what you need to do for each other.

2. Describe a time when you knew you should forgive someone, but you didn't really want to. Did you eventually forgive them?

Have the boys give examples. Don't be afraid to give an example of your own – showing by example that we all need to do this. Ask the boys if their forgiveness was genuine, that it removed the blame for good, or if it still comes back.

3. If you continue to stay upset with someone and you keep anger in your heart — who are you really hurting?

The boys will likely recognize this as a straight-forward question and answer, keeping anger in your heart hurts yourself. Forgiving is not the same as forgetting. You may still remember what somebody did that hurt you, but true forgiveness means you no longer hold that against them. Forgiving someone means you have removed the blame, the anger, and the desire for revenge.

4. Sometimes a person we forgive hurts us again. What would have been your response if Jesus gave you the answer in Matthew 18:21-22?

Allow the boys to give their personal reactions to this answer.

This would not have been the answer I was looking for. Our human nature tends to say "enough is enough" and give up on someone who continues to wrong us. Forgiving more times than we can count is not something that comes easy, we need Christ's help.

5. Read Colossians 3:12-14. What do we learn about forgiveness and love from these verses?

Verse 12 gives a list of attributes we must hold on to. Each of these takes a choice for us each and every day. Verse 13 then lays forgiveness on top of the initial list. We can be as compassionate, kind, humble, gentle and patient as can be, but without forgiveness those traits mean nothing. If we aren't sure how to forgive, Paul points out the ultimate example we have – as the Lord forgave you. Verse 14 caps it all off with love. Similar to 1 Corinthians 13, we see that the greatest of these is love. If we have love for each other, the forgiveness becomes possible.

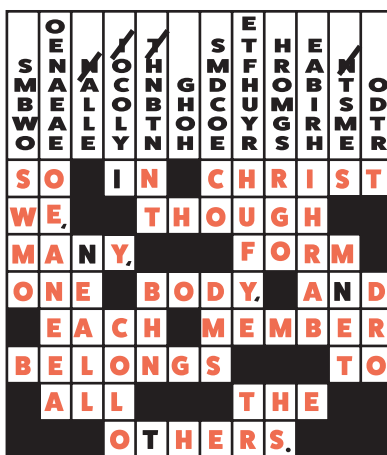
6. Remembering the Bible passages about Joseph from the beginning of the lesson – describe how we know that God is in control of our family relationships.

“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him” (Romans 8:28).

We may not have the best family, we may not have the family we want, we may not feel our family is complete, but we have the family God has given us. God has given us the tools we need to relate to our family – tools of love, patience and forgiveness. We have the example of God as our Father, we as His children, to try and live up to.

PUZZLE

Solve the puzzle to see what the Bible says about Family.



ROMANS 12:1

REMEMBER

The LORD is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid?

Psalm 27:1

This week, forgive someone whom you have forgiven before and they have wronged you again. God's in control, you don't need to be afraid.

Lesson 4: God's In Control of Our Needs Part 1

1 Kings 17:1-16

OBJECTIVES

1. The boys will realize God provides for their daily needs.
2. The boys will understand that sometimes it is difficult to trust in God providing what they need, but He always comes through.
3. The boys will develop a sense of gratitude for all they are given.

INTRODUCTORY ACTIVITY

Materials needed:

- Small, clear glass vase
- Vegetable oil
- Larger clear jar or glass pitcher

Tell the boys that the small vase represents them, the larger jar represents God. Place the vase into the jar. You will be able to still see it.

Sometimes we think we are living in Jesus, but we see ourselves as important. We want people to see us and what we can do, not just the bigger picture, which is Christ.

Fill the jar with oil until it covers the vase.

God provides all we are in need of, and more.

When we truly live in God, and rely on His provisions, others will only see Him.

QUEST INTRODUCTION

The boys were excited because they knew Counselor Steve was in charge of the food for the campout; he was known to be really good at cooking over a campfire. At the last Cadet meeting he told everybody that he was planning a special supper for them, he was bringing steaks and a special butter to put on each person's steak. But before the campout started, Counselor Steve broke his leg and couldn't come to the campout at all.

Theo was extremely disappointed. He had seen the menu for the campout, and next to Saturday's supper the word "steaks" was crossed out and the word "hotdogs" was written. In fact, this was the third meal where they were going to have hotdogs. Hotdogs were not Theo's favorite food. Theo was complaining to his friend Thomas, when Thomas said, "Apparently you have never had to miss a meal because there was no food for you to eat. It has happened to me, and now I am grateful for every meal I get - no matter what is being served." Theo remembered this at suppertime and gave an extra special prayer of thanks to God for the food He provided.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Describe a time when you felt really hungry. Can you think of anything besides food when you're like that?

For most of the boys, their feelings of extreme hunger aren't much more than discomfort. Even in that situation, once you are hungry, and your stomach starts to hurt, it is difficult to think about anything else.

Even talking about food will make some of the boys start to feel hungry, even if they recently had a meal.

2. Where does the food that you eat come from?

The boys will have all the simple answers - It comes from the cupboard, the fridge, the store, a restaurant, a friend's house, a school cafeteria or a vending machine. We go to the store and buy what we need, and even for those people who don't have a job there are food pantries and soup kitchens.

If we dig deeper, we realize all we eat comes to us as a gift from God. Vegetables or meat, we rely on God's promise of springtime and harvest continuing in order to be fed. In North America we don't worry about food shortages or famine as they do in other parts of the world.

Do the boys think it would be easier to trust God for their food if they lived in a place where food wasn't as plentiful?

3. What situation have you been in where you didn't think God would provide what you need?

Don't limit the boy's answers to their need for food. Have they experienced fear of no shelter? Fear of abandonment? Fear of loneliness? Do they worry God will not allow them to experience things to the full? Have they been concerned they won't have a clear head for a test?

Some boys may live in a situation where they can't assume all their needs will be met, and if they are it causes financial struggles for their parent(s). Don't let any boy be shamed or belittled based on his answer to this question.

4. What did God provide for His people in Exodus 16:11-15?

God used the provision of physical bread and meat to show the Israelites that He was in control. He provided them an example of His power, and of His care for them.

Verse 12 shows that God was giving them more than just food. The people were grumbling about the lack of food, but God knew that their complaints ran deeper than that. The Israelites were complaining about the changes to their life-style, things that weren't the way they used to be. The people didn't feel like they had any control in their lives anymore. God gave them what they said they wanted (quail and manna), and what they needed (a loving God in control of the situation).

5. Read 1 Timothy 6:17. Who provides for our needs? How are we supposed to handle these gifts/blessings?

The easy answer for the first question is – God. He provides us with everything.

How we handle these gifts is up for more discussion. This verse states we are given these things for our enjoyment. But what does that mean when one person receives more than another? Do we get to keep it all for ourselves and enjoy them, or are there expectations for us to share with those who have been given less?

Do we need to feel guilty because we have been given much? No, God has given to each as He sees fit.

If we love Jesus, we will keep His commandments, which include looking after the widow and orphan and those less fortunate. We cannot let an abundance of blessings make us greedy for more. Verse 18 tells us we must be rich in good deeds, generous and willing to share.

6. Why is it easy to forget that God being in control includes Him providing all we need?

The world continues to tell us we can accomplish anything we set our heart towards, we can be anything we want to be if we only try hard enough, and it is all up to us to determine our destiny. It is easy to lose sight of the fact God has provided all we are in need of, and it is only because He has blessed us that we have what we do.

We need to work at keeping a mindset of gratitude, always being thankful for all we have been given.

Puzzle

Use the code to determine what the verse says about God taking care of your needs.

T A K E D E L I G H T I N
 4 1 5 5 3 5 3 1 4 5 4 1 2

T H E L O R D , A N D
 4 4 5 3 4 1 3 1 2 3

H E W I L L G I V E
 5 5 3 1 3 5 4 1 3 5

Y O U T H E D E S I R E S
 5 4 2 4 4 5 3 5 2 1 1 5 2

O F Y O U R H E A R T .
 4 2 5 4 2 1 5 5 1 1 4

PSALM 37:4

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

REMEMBER

The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing. Psalm 23:1

Read Psalm 23 together, saying "God is in Control" after each verse.

Lesson 5: God's In Control of Our Needs Part 2

LUKE 12:22-26

OBJECTIVES

1. The boys will develop an appreciation for all they have been given.
2. The boys will understand God's provisions for the earth extend to all of creation, not just people.
3. The boys will realize worrying about their future and trusting God for guidance don't mix.

INTRODUCTORY ACTIVITY

Materials Needed:

- Cooking oil
- Water
- Food coloring
- 3 clear containers

Label one container "worry" and one "trusting God".

Pour some oil in the trusting God container.

Pour some water in the worry container, add some food coloring to make it easier to see.

Ask the boys if they know they are supposed to trust God for everything – last week's lesson introduced this.

Ask the boys if they sometimes worry about having enough. Can they both worry and trust at the same time?

Pour some of the oil and water into the third container at the same time.

It will look like the worry and the trust are mixed together.

After a bit of time passes, the oil and water will start to separate, with the oil being on top.

Worrying about things and trusting God cannot stay together, and trusting God always ends up on top.

QUEST INTRODUCTION

"What's your favorite bird?" asked Jeff, as he and Theo hiked side by side.

"Probably the woodpecker," said Theo. "You can hear them pounding on a tree and then you know where to look for them. You can watch them hammer their beaks so hard against the wood that it practically scrambles their brains."

"My favorite bird is the canary," Jeff continued. "We have a canary in a cage on our porch and, every morning when the sun comes up, it sings and sings its morning song."

"There sure are a lot of different birds in the world; all different shapes, sizes and colors. It is pretty awesome that God would create such a variety of birds," said Theo.

"I wonder if God notices each and every one of them?" asked Jeff.

"The Bible tells us that God takes care of all the birds," responded Theo.

"Who knows," continued Jeff, "since He takes care of all the birds, he might take extra special care of you and me."

"I like the way you think," said Theo.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Describe your favorite bird. Why it is your favorite?

This question isn't about the specific answer, it is to get the boys willing to talk. When they do give a favorite bird, make sure they explain why as well.

Allow the boys to realize there are no wrong answers, and that each of them has their own personality along with their favorite bird.

2. Who feeds the birds and how do the birds get fed?

The simple answer is that God makes sure the birds are fed. Have the boys think about how this happens. God does not sprinkle bird seed around for each of the birds, rather He has created the birds with an innate desire to hunt for food appropriate for it. Woodpeckers know to peck wood, robins know to look for worms, other birds look for berries, seeds or insects. There is an ebb and flow to nature that allows the amount of food available and the number of birds to eat it, to be in the correct balance.

3. Do you think the birds know this? Does it matter?

The birds do not know this. A person’s ability to think about God and His relationship with creation is part of our uniqueness. God made people different than the animals.

It doesn’t matter whether or not the bird knows why it eats what it does, or that God holds their existence in His hands.

We are not birds, though. While our existence is also held in God’s hands, we have the ability to have a relationship with God. We can be thankful for all of His provisions.

4. Read Luke 12:6-7. What does this tell us about God’s watchful care of us?

Sometimes it is easier for us to see how God takes care of the animals as opposed to how He takes care of us. We need to realize how much more important we are than the plants and animals.

We are created in God’s image and are the pinnacle of His creation. If we can see God’s care of the animals, we should be able to see His care for us.

No matter what our self-image is, we are important to God. We will not be forgotten by Him in any circumstance.

God not only cares for each of us, He cares about every little aspect of each of us. Numbering the hairs on the head of each person would seem like an impossible task, yet that is the level of care and concern He lavishes on us.

5. God watches over and loves all of His creation, especially His people. How do we know this to be true? Romans 8:31-32, 38-39.

We give presents to those we love – birthday gifts, Mother’s Day presents, Christmas packages, etc. We would typically give a nicer gift to someone we love more.

There is not a gift more valuable than God giving us His Son. Have the boys think of the level of love that took. In human terms, if you are willing to give a gift of a new car, how much easier would it be to share one of your snacks? God was willing to give His Son, you can trust He will give you anything else you are in need of.

6. Read Luke 12:22-26 again and describe how these verses show that God is in control.

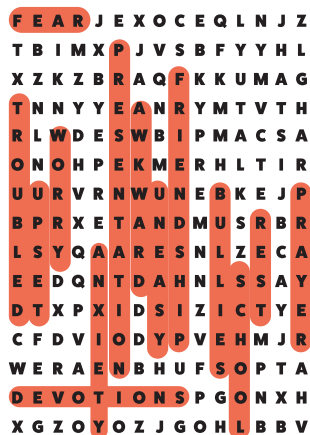
These verses describe various aspects of our lives Jesus is telling us He controls. Food and clothing are two big concerns for boys of Cadet age. They always seem to be hungry, and having the right image with what they wear allows them to fit in with their peers. Adding time to their life fits in with the world’s importance placed on fame and popularity. This too, is something that God has control over, not us.

Whether our concerns seem to be huge in our mind, impacting our entire life, or we feel we are small and insignificant in the larger scheme of things, God promises we do not need to worry, He’s got everything under control.

PUZZLE

Find the words relating to worry in the wordsearch below.

- Anxiety
- Awkward
- Bullies
- Devotions
- Fear
- Friendship
- Prayer
- Presentation
- Rest
- School
- Talk
- Troubled
- Uneasy
- Upset
- Worry



REMEMBER

For I am the LORD your God who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you. Isaiah 41:13

Pick one thing you often worry about, even though you don’t need to. Find a way to trust God for his provisions, instead of being anxious, this week.

November *Cadet Quest* Theme Discussion

Turn or Burn

Guilty! — a legal verdict of wrongdoing. But guilt can also be a feeling: feeling bad over something we said or did wrong. While guilt doesn't change behavior, it is the first step to repentance. Repentance moves from feeling bad (guilty) about what we've done, to being sorry for our sins, confessing them to God, and then turning away from them. God will forgive and forget our sins when we are truly repentant. Be sure your boys know that feeling guilty is just that — a feeling. It is not repentance before God.

Repentance means being sorry for the sins we've done, turning away from our old sinful way of life, and turning to God to let Him have complete control. This leads to living a life worthy of the calling we have received (Ephesians 4:1). Since we are in November, this activity should work out well. It involves making resolutions and commitments.

Each boy is given a few sheets of paper and an envelope, along with a pen or pencil. For effect, you could print the shape of a leaf on one paper, and burn the edges of the other paper.

The Cadets are asked to write on the "burn" paper a bad habit that they would like to discontinue. After discussing how one goes about ridding himself of a bad habit, and after some prayer and mutual commitment to each other, each person brings their bad habit symbolically to the front and burns it in a little bonfire. You can probably build a small fire inside a washtub, or use a small cooking grill. Do this part outdoors or where the smoke is easily vented out of the room.

Next, the Cadets are asked to "turn" (over a new leaf). Ask each boy to write down on the leaf some resolutions (good habits that each commits to begin doing) for the rest of the Cadet season and through the year. The papers are then folded and put into individual envelopes and sealed with the person's home address on the front of the envelope. Collect the envelopes and mail them to each boy in June to remind them of their resolutions.

The best way to make a program like this effective over the long haul is to plan some ways to follow up on this during the year. It can prove to be a very meaningful way to approach an old idea.

You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. Ephesians 4:22-24

Other verses you may want to use that are related to this discussion:

- Repentance is required — Acts 17:30, Luke 13:3-5, 2 Peter 3:9
- Repentance brings about change — Ephesians 4:22-32, Luke 19:8-10, 1 John 5:3
- Repentance is ongoing — 2 Corinthians 7:8-12

Lesson 6: God's In Control of Our Learning

Mark 8:22-25

OBJECTIVES

1. The boys will know their ability to think is itself a gift from God.
2. The boys will understand how God works through human inventions.

INTRODUCTORY ACTIVITY

Materials Needed:

- Pail with a handle, filled with water

Ask the boys what would happen if you tipped the pail upside down over their heads. It will be obvious to them the water would pour out and get them wet.

Holding on to the handle, swing the pail around in a large vertical circle. As it swings around, the water will stay in the pail. The inertia of the water will keep it from coming out of the pail.

There are laws of nature we don't see which control the world around us. We don't need to see God to know that He is in control of things happening around us.

God has given us minds to study and learn from this world, giving us an insight into the intricacies and details He put in place from the very beginning.

QUEST INTRODUCTION

Counselor Tom knows a lot about trees, bushes and plants. When he leads hikes, he explains what he sees. Theo and the other cadets hear how some plants and berries can be eaten in nature, while other plants and berries are poisonous and you need to stay away from them.

On the last hike, Counselor Tom told them how some medicines are made from plants. He explained how God has put these plants on the earth, and how God has given humans the minds to be able to determine how to use the plants for healing. This sounded amazing to Theo. He already knew it was good to eat fruits and vegetables, but he had not thought about companies taking plants and making them into medicines.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What actions did Jesus do to give sight to the blind man?

Jesus guided the man by holding his hand. He spit on the man's eyes, and again placed His hands on him. He spoke with the man.

This miracle was a very personal experience between Jesus and the man. It was not done at a distance. There was a connection via human touch and speech.

2. How do you think God is doing miracles in people's lives each and every day?

We don't have the same opportunity for Jesus' physical touch to change our lives, but we do still have His words. God's Word can change lives.

Many of the boys will have heard of a situation where doctors state the healing of someone was "a miracle". The dictionary defines a miracle as "a surprising and welcome event that is not explicable by natural or scientific laws". These are not things outside of God's laws for the world, they are outside of our understanding of the world.

We may hear of miraculous events and coincidences, but all happens according to God's plan. God can use other people to bring about things that we can't explain.

3. Why is it so amazing that human beings can use their minds to figure out how to make medicines that heal?

There is so much that can go wrong with the human body. We were not the ones that made it, and there is no instruction manual describing everything about us. There are so many plants and other substances that are able to be used to create a medicine. The chance of us just randomly finding the right thing to cure a disease is very small. God guides our ability to think and gives insight to scientists to be able to discover more and more.

The animals God made do not have the ability to think about themselves in the way humans can introspect. Humans have been specially created, in God's image, with the ability to think about God and the ability to learn about ourselves, not just react to our world.

4. How does it show God providing for us every time we take our medicines or get a vaccination?

We don't need to know how the medicine works inside of us, we just trust that it does. We understand God has gifted doctors and scientists with the ability to learn how our bodies work and what needs to be done to heal them.

Similarly, we don't understand how God works, we have faith that He does.

God has told us that even in times of trouble he will not forsake us. He provides medical professionals who can diagnose, prescribe, treat, or perform surgery, all as means of God providing for our care.

5. Many of us are blessed with schools and teachers and parents that help us understand our wonderful universe. How does learning this way show us that God is providing?

God has given us brains to learn about all of His creation, a creation which is a gift for us to enjoy. As we learn about biology and physics, geography and history, we see how God has designed everything very intricately and it all works together.

God told the Israelites, and it holds true for us today, that we are to teach our children the ways of the LORD, we are to impress them on our children (Deuteronomy 6:7). So, not only the ability to learn, but the things we learn are a provision from God.

Each of the people God puts in a boy's life to teach him is a gift. You may possibly still remember some of your teachers and the impact they had on your life. Don't be afraid to share with your cadre about previous adults who taught you something.

6. For some boys school is very difficult. Does this mean God doesn't provide for these people? Why or why not?

Even though the ability to learn is a gift from God, that does not mean those who struggle learning are not gifted. God gives different gifts to different people. Part of the learning process is to determine where and how we have been gifted.

Many times we may feel God is telling us, "No", when really He may be saying "Not now" or "Not here".

In the parable of the talents (see Matthew 25:14-30), God did not judge the one who received two bags of gold as less worthy than the one who received five. It is only the servant who did nothing with his gift that was judged harshly. We must do our best with what we have been given, and not be envious of those who start with a different amount of a gift in a specific area compared to ourselves.

PUZZLE

Solve the puzzle to see what the Bible says about knowledge.



A N I N T E L L I G E N T

H E A R T A C Q U I R E S

K N O W L E D G E, A N D

T H E E A R O F T H E

W I S E S E E K S

K N O W L E D G E.

REMEMBER

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction. Proverbs 1:7

Look for ways in which God allows you to learn this week. Thank Him for these opportunities.

Lesson 7: Are You Really Sorry?

1 Samuel 15:1-26

OBJECTIVES

1. Each cadet will see himself as guilty before God and worthy of punishment; he will want to turn from his sin to live in Jesus.

INTRODUCTORY ACTIVITY

Materials Needed:

- Jenga™ game (or other game where you stack blocks and it is over when they fall)

Before playing the game, tell the boys that each tile (block) represents a sin. When the game is over, and the tiles have all fallen, ask each what the game might symbolize. Help them realize that when we stack sin over top of sin again and again, eventually everything will come crashing down on us. But when we go to Jesus and ask for His forgiveness, we have no sins to stack.

QUEST INTRODUCTION

Saul was not like most others in his neighborhood. He was tall, dark, and very good looking. But he was shy. He worked for his father and spent a lot of time out in the fields — away from people — and that's the way he liked it.

One day while on an errand for his father, God's prophet stopped him and poured oil on (anointed) his head and told him that he had been chosen by God to be the first king of Israel. Saul didn't like this at first because he was shy.

After he became king, things changed. People shouted great things about him, girls made up songs about him ... and soon that was the way Saul liked it. He was a successful soldier and conquered many neighboring nations. His fame spread ... and he liked that. He found that he had a lot of power and could give orders and do anything he wanted ... and he liked that, too.

But that did not make God happy. It wasn't what God wanted for him. Saul was given a job to do and he did it the way he pleased ... because that was the way he liked it.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What did God (through Samuel) tell Saul to do in verses 1-3? What was God's reason for this?

God's command in 1 Samuel 15:1-3 is very specific. God went into detail about what He wanted Saul to do. There was no room for doubt or guessing how it was to be done. Saul understood his task. He was told to totally destroy the Amalekites and everything they owned.

The Amalekites needed to be destroyed because of an earlier sin against God's people (Exodus 17:8-13). Be sure your boys know that sin is always punished, immediately or later, in this life or in eternity. They must simply obey God's orders.

2. Why didn't Saul obey God completely (vs. 9)? How do we have the same trouble obeying God?

Saul didn't obey God completely. He had his own ideas about how things ought to go. God said to completely destroy everything, but Saul saved the best for himself. And he saved the king for himself. We can understand why Saul wanted the best of the cattle and the plunder of the towns — it was pure greed.

But why the king? In that day, defeated kings were kept by victorious kings as trophies. They were usually blinded, crippled, and then chained to a table leg at banquets. This way, a king could boast about how great and powerful he was. The more kings who were chained to the table, the more nations the king had defeated. Saul was caught in this sinful pride of boasting. He took the glory that belonged to God who gave him the victories. Saul's sin was pride and self-interest. He didn't obey God because he wanted to look good.

This can be a problem for us when we are willing to do anything so we can boast about our accomplishments — sinful pride can overcome us.

3. How did God feel about this (vs. 10-11)? Does he feel this way about your sins?

God was very displeased with Saul. Verse 11 says He was "grieved." God's grief was expressed in sadness over making Saul king. How often God must be grieved with us because of our sins of disobedience! Help the boys understand that God's attitude toward our sins is the same as toward Saul's. We too "grieve" God when we disobey Him.

Samuel as God's spokesman received the message and was troubled about it. Samuel was also hurt by Saul's disobedience and went to confront him.

Just as Samuel was hurt by Saul's disobedience, and the fact that he had to point out the king's sins to Saul, the boys hurt people when they sin as well. Ask the boys who they think is troubled when they sin, besides the people against whom the sin is committed.

4. Was Saul sorry for his sin or just sorry he got caught? Did he try to justify himself to Samuel (vs. 13, 20)?

Sorrow for sin can be one of two kinds:

- Attrition — sorrow for being caught and having to face punishment.
- Contrition — true heartfelt sorrow for sin because it truly grieves the Lord.

Saul's repentance was the first kind, not the second. He was not sorry for disobeying, but only for being caught in the act. That kind of repentance is never from the heart. Saul's repentance was only on the surface, and did not reflect a change of feeling or attitude.

5. What changed in Saul's relationship with God (vs. 21)? Can this happen to us if we are not careful?

Saul's relationship with the Lord his God had changed. Verse 21 tells us that Saul told Samuel that the soldiers were going to sacrifice the plunder to "your God." It was not "my" God or even Lord. He had forsaken and forgotten God and was not truly repentant for anything. Are we sometimes too much like Saul?

Contrition is discussed in the next lesson about David. You may want to point that out to the boys to anticipate next week's lesson. Heartfelt sorrow for sin is needed for all of us to be happy in the Lord.

6. How should we respond when we are caught in a sin?

Trying to justify ourselves when caught is not the correct response. The example can be when a cadet is caught hitting his brother. "He hit me first," is an attempt at justifying our misdeeds, but does not make the deed acceptable. In most instances his parents already know what has occurred. When caught we need to admit (confess), apologize (make amends), and take steps in our life to not make the same mistake again.

PUZZLE

Read 1 John 1:9. Fill the words into the puzzle below. All words are only used once.



REMEMBER

Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Psalm 32:1

Pray to God for forgiveness of a specific sin this week, not just "forgive my sins, Amen." Being sorry for your sins means trying not to repeat it and doing better next time.

Lesson 8: Try To Live With Yourself

2 Samuel 12:1-15

OBJECTIVES

1. Your cadets will experience true sorrow for their sins and realize that they have committed them against God.
2. Each boy will know that true repentance is necessary to live at peace with himself and with God.

INTRODUCTORY ACTIVITY #1 *(choose activity #1 and/or #2)*

Materials Needed:

- A mirror

Hand the mirror to a boy and ask him what he sees in it. Ask if his hair looks a different color in the mirror, or if his eye color changes. Point out that the mirror “tells it like it is.” Then explain that just as the mirror tells it like it is, so does God’s Word.

INTRODUCTORY ACTIVITY #2

Materials Needed:

- A large coat with lots of pockets
- An empty backpack
- Lots of heavy rocks

Ask for a volunteer to put on the coat and backpack. As he does this, explain that each of the rocks you brought represents a sin. Begin loading your volunteer down with the rocks — fill his pockets, the coat pockets, and the backpack. As you do this, talk about how our sins weigh us down if we don’t repent ... maybe not a lot at first, but eventually they will be more than we can carry. Ask your volunteer if he feels really loaded down, and if he’d like to wear all this weight for days and days. Have him take off the coat and backpack, but don’t remove the rocks. You can do that to wrap up your lesson.

As you unload the rocks, tell them that the removed rocks represent confessed sins that God has forgiven. The load of guilt is taken away as sins are confessed. Our hard feelings toward others that may have led us to the temptation to sin is also removed.

You may want to tell this story as a wrap-up to point out the need to confess sins now, rather than waiting until later.

Three roofers lived in the same town. On one rainy night, all three houses started to leak. The roofers pulled out buckets and mopped up floors and were upset over the rain. But the next morning was sunny, and the crisis was over ... for now.

Roofer Thad knew he had to fix his roof right away — while the sun was shining. But he was so busy with all his work and fun that he kept putting it off. After a while it made him angry to think of having to fix his roof, so he stopped thinking about it.

Roofer Brad was also upset that his house had a leaky roof. The next day he immediately started work on it. But of course, he had other things he had to do, and he just couldn’t get it done. He didn’t stop thinking about it, and he really intended to get back to it and finish ... but other things came first.

Roofer Glad was upset, but he realized he had to do something soon. He knew it was a big project, so he worked on it a couple of hours every day until it was fixed.

A few weeks later it rained again — buckets and buckets all day long. It was too late for Thad and Brad to do anything. The time for fixing was over. They were facing another crisis. But Glad’s house was dry inside as the rain fell outside.

When is it time to repent and prepare to meet our God? Now, during this life. On our deathbed, it may be too late. We don’t know when our time to meet the Lord will be. If we put off our repentance, we may no longer want to repent because of a conscience beyond repair. Don’t wait until it’s too late!

QUEST INTRODUCTION

You get up in the morning, and if you are like most of us, the first face you see is your own looking back at you from a mirror. The mirror tells you that you need to wash or shower, you need to comb or brush your hair, and perhaps you have a “zit” (pimple) on your nose. Truthfully, the mirror brings out your good points and your imperfections. Yet, most of those are on the surface.

God gives us His Word to help us take a good look at ourselves inside to see how we look there too. His Word is a mirror and will show us to be guilty or innocent, sinful or righteous, clean or dirty with sin.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Who did God send to David? What did he tell David and how did it apply to David (2 Samuel 12:1-8)?

God sent Nathan, His prophet, to confront David. Nathan told David a story about a rich man with lots of lambs and a poor man with only one lamb that he loved. When company visited the rich man, he took the lamb from the poor man and served it for his company instead of using one of his own lambs.

When David became angry at the rich man in the story, Nathan informed him that he was that man!

2. What sin(s) was David guilty of, from which he hadn't repented (2 Samuel 12:9-10)?

This account of David and Bathsheba is full of sins. David looked, lusted, and took Bathsheba. Then to hide his sin, he lied to his generals and to Uriah the Hittite. When his plan failed, he planned a "legal" murder through battle. When the message of Uriah's death reached him, he married Bathsheba and thought that the sin was covered over. But he was dead wrong. He forgot that every sinful thing he did was disobedience to Almighty God. You and I may often be like David — covering up our sins rather than confessing them. Can you think of a sin you covered up instead of confessing it to God and making it right?

3. Did David have trouble living with himself because of his sins? What does verse 3 mean to you as a sinner? What did David pray for in Psalm 51:10-12?

Repentance is "heartfelt sorrow for sin." And David felt it deeply. He poured out his heart before the Lord and confessed that, "Against you, you only have I sinned." All sin — even though it involves many people — is at the very core against Almighty God because sin is breaking His rules. Sin breaks man's relationship to God and it needs to be restored. That can only happen when a sinner confesses his sin before the Lord.

4. Did David repent before the Lord — true sorrow from his heart for his sin against God after recognizing his guilt? Read David's confession in Psalm 51:3-4. Was he truly sorry?

All sin is trouble for us personally. We feel guilty; we get sick; we can't sleep; we feel lousy; we get bent out of shape and are out of sorts. Guilt causes us to feel those things. Discuss the feelings of guilt your boys suffer with when they live with unrepented sin. In Psalm 51:10-12, David prayed for a pure heart and a steadfast spirit. He knew the secret to real happiness was inner renewal. He continued by asking for the joy of God's salvation and a willing spirit. To be joyful, we need to know forgiveness of our sins through Jesus. Repentance is essential to real happiness in life.

5. What two kinds of sorrow for sin are mentioned in 2 Corinthians 7:9-10? Which one is a result of a believing heart? Are you really sorry for your sins? Can you live with yourself each day?

Worldly sorrow does no good and, in fact, leads to death.

Godly sorrow leads a believer to repentance and release from the guilt of sin. Encourage the boys who are feeling Godly sorrow to repent before God and accept His forgiveness and new life. You can use the helps on the last page of this book.

6. What reward comes to those who try to right a wrong? Can you experience this?

Many times we look for possessions or things to be our reward. Help your Cadets see that the greatest reward we can have is to be right with God — to be forgiven. Other parts of that reward include having inner peace, having fellowship with our friends, and regaining the trust of a person we have wronged. *If you can, illustrate this point from your own experience.*

PUZZLE

Do the math to see what the verse says about forgiveness.

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

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21

B E K I N D A N D C O M P A S S I O N A T E T O O N E
8-1 18-2 7-5 5-3 10-9 1-2 9-2 16-3 6-3 11-1 13-2 13-5 9-3 9-2 11-3 17-3 7-1 13-2 20-110-3 7-4 17-1 21-10 12-3 17-2 18-120-4

A N O T H E R , F O R G I V I N G E A C H O T H E R ,
5-2 14-5 20-5 1-10 10-5 12-4 4-3 5-1 14-1 6-5 10-3 10-2 15-5 11-3 17-2 15-2 11-5 12-5 1-9 2-3 20-5 3-8 4-1 19-3 5-4

J U S T A S C H R I S T G O D F O R G A V E Y O U .
18-1 6-2 7-7 17-6 16-9 8-6 9-1 10-5 6-5 7-1 8-6 13-2 10-3 19-4 1-2 2-4 14-1 9-8 14-1 9-2 16-4 17-1 19-2 21-6 3-1

EPHESIANS 4:32

REMEMBER

Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Acts 2:38

Think about a time you have wronged another person. Pray for strength to ask that person to forgive you. Carry out the plan and ask them for forgiveness, trying to make it right and undo what you did if possible. Show by your actions you have changed.

December Cadet Quest Theme Discussion

Cadets In Training

When a person is in training, he constantly monitors his strengths, growth, and abilities. In physical training, he keeps track of how many pushups, sit-ups, and pull-ups he can do, his speed and distance in running, and other areas vital to his arena of competition.

When it comes to spiritual training, it's even more important to evaluate your progress. For an evening of self-examination and serious thought, copy the check-list below and distribute the copies to your Cadets. They should go through the list and circle the number that best represents where they think they are in terms of development without reading the passages of Scripture (1 = I haven't begun; 4 = By God's Grace, I'm there). When they are finished, have them read the passages of Scripture and go back over the list, drawing squares around the numbers this time. It is likely some responses will change, but some will not. They will see where their points of view differ from God's perfect point of view.

Have them draw a line connecting the squares. The area to the right of the line indicates room for improvement. Be careful not to make kids feel inadequate or guilty. Emphasize that God loves them and can still use them in spite of failures to live perfectly.

Close the meeting with a challenge: as Christians, they are responsible to improve and change society if it is to be done.

My Christian Profile

Rate Yourself				Statement	Scripture
Haven't Begun	By God's Grace, I'm There				
1	2	3	4		
1	2	3	4	My relationship to God is my first priority.	<i>Matthew 13:44-46, 16:24-27; Luke 9:57-62, 14:25-33</i>
1	2	3	4	I love others as I love myself.	<i>Matthew 22:34-40, Luke 6:27-36, 1 John 3:15-17</i>
1	2	3	4	I use my talents for God's Kingdom.	<i>Matthew 25:14-30</i>
1	2	3	4	I play the role of a servant.	<i>Matthew 20:20-28, 23:11-12; Mark 10:43-45, Luke 14:7-11</i>
1	2	3	4	I help those in need.	<i>Matthew 25:32-46, Luke 10:25-37</i>
1	2	3	4	I do not give in to lust, even in my mind.	<i>Matthew 5:27-30</i>
1	2	3	4	I go the extra mile when asked.	<i>Matthew 5:38-48</i>
1	2	3	4	I always tell the truth.	<i>Matthew 5:33-37, John 3:21, 7:18</i>
1	2	3	4	I am not angry with my brother.	<i>Matthew 5:21-26, 1 John 2:9-11, 4:20-21</i>
1	2	3	4	I do not worry.	<i>Matthew 6:25-34, 1 Peter 5:7</i>
1	2	3	4	I do not seek security in material things.	<i>Matthew 6:19-21, Luke 12:13-21</i>
1	2	3	4	I forgive those who wrong me.	<i>Matthew 6:12-15, 1 Corinthians 13:4-6</i>
1	2	3	4	I do not judge others.	<i>Matthew 7:1-2, Romans 2:1-3</i>
1	2	3	4	I have complete faith that God will answer my prayers.	<i>Luke 11:9, John 15:7, James 1:5</i>
1	2	3	4	I am learning to overcome temptation.	<i>Matthew 18:7-9, John 8:31-38</i>
1	2	3	4	I give generously.	<i>Mark 12:41-44, 1 Timothy 6:18</i>
1	2	3	4	I believe God will redeem His creation through Christ.	<i>John 8:31-38, Titus 2:13-14, Romans 5:12-21</i>

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

Lesson 9: God's In Control of Our Hearts

Acts 9:1-19

OBJECTIVES

1. The boys will understand how important it is to have God as the number one priority of their life.
2. The boys, if they haven't already, will consider if they are willing to choose to live for Jesus.

INTRODUCTORY ACTIVITY

Materials Needed

- Coins, playing cards, bottle caps, or some similar objects the boys can toss
- Tape or string to be able to mark a boundary on the floor
- A simple prize for each of the boys.

Place the boundary line part way across the room, and have a line the boys must stay behind.

Show the boys how they can flick a card, or toss a coin, to land somewhere within the playing area. If you throw it too hard it goes out of bounds. Explain that you are going to play a game, but you won't tell the boys exactly how to win. Maybe whoever is closest to the center of the playing area will win, maybe whoever is closest to the far boundary line will win. Allow each boy to toss their object. Once they are done, state that everyone who stayed in bounds wins a prize.

The game shows God's free will for us. We can toss the object however we want, but there are some rules God would like us to follow.

Now give any boy whose object went out of bounds a prize as well. God paid the price and we all get the final reward.

God would like us all desire to follow Him and stay in-bounds, but He loves us all and will do what it takes to ensure we all have the opportunity of eternal life.

QUEST INTRODUCTION

It was the last night of the campout and Theo was in his sleeping bag. He was thinking about all the activities of the day. Their youth pastor had driven to camp and joined them for the evening. Youth Pastor Jeff had led them in evening devotions, challenging them to check their hearts. He said each person needed to decide if they wanted a relationship with Jesus.

Theo grew up knowing about Jesus from the Bible stories, but now he realized he had to think about what he wanted in a relationship with Jesus. Basically, he was asking himself if he should accept Jesus' offer to be his Lord and Savior. Theo knew that this could be the biggest and best decision he ever made. Could he really put Jesus as the number one person in his life? It was time to pray about this and, if he didn't decide tonight, he would keep praying.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why is it so important to decide if Jesus has the #1 place in your heart (life)?

Jesus needs to be number one in our life if we expect to spend eternity with Him in Heaven. We can't wait to decide until later as we don't know when our life here will end. Similar to buying a car, if you want to go home and think about it, when you come back next week the car may be gone, it's too late.

If we spend too much time with someone, or something, else as number one they strengthen their hold on our heart, trying to ensure there is no place for Jesus.

2. Describe how God showed that He was in control when he called Saul (Paul) to be His follower.

The story speaks for itself. Bright lights, voices from heaven, making someone blind and three days later returning their sight, and strange visitors that would typically not want to be associated with you, would all have shown Paul that God was in control. Nothing in this story went the way Paul would have planned if he was in control.

What is not included in the story are the thoughts Saul must have had during the three days he was blind. The changes in his life, and his completely different attitude towards the way of Christ as opposed to the Pharisees, show that God was in control of Saul/Paul's heart and mind.

3. Has God showed His control over your life by calling you this way?

Very few of the boys, or any of us, will have a story as dramatic as the calling of Saul. God doesn't always work in this fashion, maybe the boys have heard God's call in a quiet whisper, or the nudging of a peer, or the mentorship of a teacher, parent, or even a Cadet counselor.

Be willing to share any stories of how you have felt God's calling in your life.

4. If someone says that Jesus is #1 in their life – how might you tell if that is true? See John 14:15 and Exodus 20:1-17.

As our Cadet verse states, if you love Jesus, you will keep his commandments. The passage from Exodus lists the Ten Commandments, but it may be difficult to explain the context and intent of this list to the boys in the time allowed. There is more to loving Jesus than obeying 10 rules.

If someone says that Jesus is #1, you would expect to see them act in a way that tries to follow the commandments, and their intent.

5. Matthew 22:37-39 is a good summary of the 10 Commandments. How is Jesus helping us in these verses?

The laws of God for the Israelites fill most of the first five books of the Bible. It is not easy to know each of these, or be able to keep all of them. In this passage, Jesus is giving us a simple means of remembering the intent of God's law. This summary is easy to understand, easy to know what you are supposed to do, yet we still find ourselves failing at it all the time.

Jesus is helping us by putting His expectations into plain words for us – no big words, no strange parables where we have to look for the meaning, nothing that sounds impossible to follow.

6. What makes it hard for you to follow this first commandment?

We are all human and born sinful.

Our hearts pull us in many directions. The world continues to present lifestyles we like to follow and possessions we want to have.

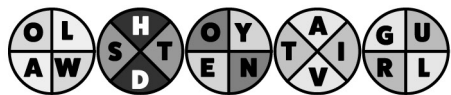
Our souls continue to look for pleasure in means other than Christ. Where do we find security – in Christ or in our on-line community?

Our minds are constantly bombarded with anti-Christ messages. We are told we can solve our problems with substances, with pornography, or with self-indulgence.

Depending on where the boys go to school, and if they go to church and/or Sunday School, they may get substantially more messages throughout the week that would lead them away from following this first and greatest commandment, than messages encouraging to stay the course.

PUZZLE

Use the code to figure out what this verse has to say.



L O V E T H E L O R D

Y O U R G O D W I T H

A L L Y O U R H E A R T

A N D A L L Y O U R

S O U L A N D A L L

Y O U R S T R E N G T H .

DEUTERONOMY 6:5

REMEMBER

Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. 1 Peter 5:6-7

The second greatest commandment involves how we relate with others. Choose someone you don't always treat properly and do something that puts this command into action.

Lesson 10: Shadow Boxing

1 Corinthians 9:24-27

OBJECTIVES

1. The boys will learn the value of training in order to receive the reward at life's end.
2. The boys will be able to describe the special physical training of shadow boxing, along with the reason for it.
3. The boys will discover the end goal, or purpose, of spiritual training.

INTRODUCTORY ACTIVITY

Materials Needed:

- A set of small lightweight dumbbells

Show your boys the set of dumbbells you brought with you and point out that you like how easy they are for you to use. Ask what they think will happen if you exercise with these dumbbells every day. Will they help you become stronger?

Because they are so light and easy to use, they won't help you much. To be effective, the exercise/training needs to push your limits — to be more difficult. When your body is challenged with exercise/training, it becomes stronger. Athletes know this and train harder and harder to improve their strength and skills in their chosen sports.

Sometimes we want life to be easy — no hard times or troubles. We need to prepare for the hard times by exercising our faith. Let's trust God in the little things; it helps prepare us to trust Him in those harder times!

QUEST INTRODUCTION

The referee has given the last-minute instructions, the boxers are in the ring, and they have retreated to their respective corners. Soon the bell will ring, and they will punch each other until one emerges as a victor.

But it did not begin there. It began many months earlier as they trained for this one great event. Training is essential in order to conquer the opponent, often seen as the enemy. Part of the training is shadow boxing, or punching into the air. This looks strange to the untrained observer, but it has great value in preparing the boxer for the real contest. Boxing is an ancient sport that has changed little since the days of Paul in the Bible.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Describe "beating the air" or shadow boxing. What is its value and purpose?

Shadow boxing is the practice of dancing about and circling in the ring without an opponent and punching into the air. It appears that, in terms of reality, the fighter has kind of "lost it," but this shadow boxing is a valuable part of training. He strengthens his arms as he learns to hold them up and to keep throwing punches for a longer period. (Simply keeping your arms up can be a task. Ask the boys to keep their hands up as you discuss this question so that they understand how tiring this is.)

In addition to strength and endurance, the boxers also develop quickness. It is essential to throw a punch quickly to attack the opponent, but also to return the fist to the previous position to defend oneself. The goal of this is the actual fight. Paul used this illustration to describe how a Christian must train because when the real "fight" comes, he is no longer shadow boxing. He is facing the enemy.

2. Often we see boxers punch a bag, jump rope, or run. Why? How important is it to develop the whole body during training?

The other exercises are an important part of training for the contest or fight. Jumping rope develops the leg muscles so that the fighter can move about quickly. Jumping and running develop the legs' endurance so that they hold for the length of the fight. The road work has a similar goal of increasing stamina and keeping one's wind; the boxer runs many miles a week to develop good lung power. This training is essential to the boxer; he needs more than just strong arms to throw a hard punch — he needs a well-trained body that has endurance, stamina, and hardness so that he can take a punch without being hurt.

3. Shadow boxing is training. What is the ultimate goal of the months of endurance training? For what is the Christian training?

Training is essential if a person is to be ready for the fight that will result in the victor's crown. Training is not an end in itself; it is a means to accomplish the task. Christians train ceaselessly by thinking on the goal and being ready at all times. Paul says, "I beat my body and make it my slave." He does not mean self-torment or physical abuse, but rather self-denial. The body is brought into submission with the realization that life's goal has a spiritual dimension. The Christian learns

to control his physical urges, desires, lusts, and passions, and submits them to the soul. Paul acknowledges that usually one is fighting, not training. In order to participate in the reward, one must obey the rules.

This applies to spiritual training as well. We need to be involved in training the whole person — mind, body, and soul — for the devil’s attacks. He can come quickly; we must be fully prepared so that we can win the prize at the end of the fight.

4. What did Paul mean in 2 Timothy 4:7 when he said, “I have fought the good fight”? What was the purpose of that fight? How valuable is that for us?

Paul challenges us, assuming we have been faithful in spiritual training, to fight the good fight. We need to be prepared to give a good account of our faith when we fight spiritual battles. We must show others the value of trusting in God and living by His rules so that they may see the rewards of faithfulness. Something far greater than the world is yet to come — emphasize this to the boys. Many are into self-gratification and readily-available instant pleasures that bring no real joy. Let them share their life’s goals, and then share your own spiritual goal. This is the time to “make your good confession,” as Paul says in this verse, and to share your testimony with them, as well as your desire to claim God’s promise of eternal life.

5. What enemies does a Christian face (Romans 8:37–39)? With whom does he fight? What assurance does he have?

This passage can help the boys identify some of their spiritual enemies. They need to see that life is more than just the physical, more than what meets the eye. Show them that this is important for life and death, and assure them that the training is worth the effort, the fight is real, and they can win. Share Paul’s promise that nothing can separate us from the love of God. With that assurance, we can confidently face the future with the knowledge that life’s end will bring the victory and lasting crown.

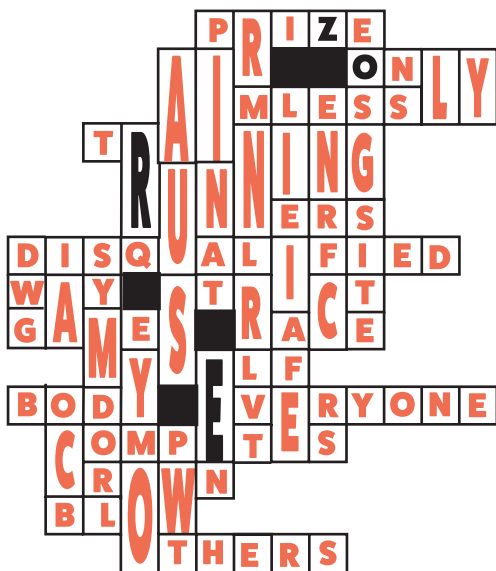
6. Is this training defensive as well as offensive?

It is essential to defend ourselves in an attack, but we must also train to provoke an attack. We learn not only to “clinch” (get in close and hold on) or dance about and avoid getting hit. We also learn how to hit and attack the enemy. A Christian training spiritually learns to defend his faith, and fight the enemy, prove him wrong, and win victory for God.

We are battling for the souls of these boys. If we are not aggressive, the world may swallow them. Recognize the world’s enticements and counter them with something lasting; otherwise, the boys will opt for instant gratification. Appeal to the boys for their commitment to Christ.

PUZZLE

Read today’s scripture again, and fill the important words into the stretch puzzle below.



REMEMBER

So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. 1 Corinthians 10:31

What do you spend your free time on? Is it reading, playing basketball, computer games? Find ways to spend some of this time training yourself to be a better Christian.

Lesson 11: Running For The Crown

Philippians 3:12-14

OBJECTIVES

1. The boys will discover that a successful life for Jesus includes conditioning, position, action, and goals.
2. The boys should share how they condition themselves to successfully run life's race.
3. The boys will state what is involved in order to reach God's goal.

INTRODUCTORY ACTIVITY

Materials Needed:

- Camera

Tell the boys about your camera and about the wonderful photos you can take with it. Tell them you want to show them just how good it is by taking a photo of one (or each) of them.

But when you begin, point the camera at yourself before snapping the shot. Ask if they think it will be a good picture of the Cadet (use his name here). Of course it won't because you had the camera focused on you instead of on him. **Note:** It might be a good idea to take a photo of each boy to use to remind you to pray for them!

Problems can come up when we focus on ourselves instead of on God. Let's keep our focus on what matters!

QUEST INTRODUCTION

"On your mark!" the loud voice boomed over the P.A. system. The runners toed the line and balanced on their knuckles.

The athletes were crouched low, muscles taut, ready to spring from the starting blocks. "Get set ..." the voice continued. The starter's pistol echoed out with a bang, and the runners bounded into action, falling into their places on the track. Alberto wanted to remain in second or third position and let someone else carry the pace. He would save his strength for the sprint at the end. He positioned himself well, never looking back, his eyes on the finish line and the state championship. As his goal came into sight, he pressed on, giving his all for the last burst of the final sprint. He was first to cross the line. By half a stride, he had won!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is conditioning, and how is it important in running a race? In running the race of life?

Conditioning is, in many ways, another word for training. In order to be a great runner, a person must not just run occasionally; he needs to practice daily and do a lot of endurance training. This conditioning develops lung power to run for many miles without becoming winded or losing strength. Conditioning is essential; top-shape runners often arrive in an area several days early to adjust to the climate.

Spiritually, too, conditioning is important. We must exercise our spiritual muscles and develop stamina for the duration as well as strength for each individual battle. The Bible tells us what is necessary to fight Satan and avoid spiritual temptations or sin. If we ask, God will help us and lead us through each experience. It is important to spend time with the Lord — reading His Word and praying regularly. Learn what the Bible says and memorize it so it readily comes to mind when needed. Share with the boys how important this conditioning is in your life and how you seek to discipline yourself each day.

2. It is important to be honest with yourself about your level of preparation. Are you really ready for the spiritual adventure?

Let the boys respond to this before you say too much. They should grasp the importance of being trained and prepared. Many folks fool themselves into thinking that, in terms of spirituality, they have arrived. Although they never read the Bible, never utter a prayer, and never try to understand God's will for them, they think they have it all. These folks, blind to the truth, are only fooling themselves, like a runner who never trains but still thinks he can successfully compete.

As you ask the boys to be honest, be honest yourself. None of our spiritual races are as they ought to be. We need to be more aggressive in our conditioning to run in life as God expects. Tell the boys of the hope and possibility to change. Challenge each other to begin fresh each morning.

3. What position should a runner occupy on the race track? What should our position in life be?

Paul shares the importance of never looking back when he writes, "... forgetting the things that are behind." Think about what is yet coming. If we have misstepped in the past, it does no good to dwell on it and lose focus for the rest of the race. One of the devil's favorite tactics is to remind us of our past and its sins. We need to forget the past; the blood of Jesus has washed it clean.

Be personal. Tell the boys that no matter what they have done, God will forgive them if they confess it to Him in faith. They can then forget the past and focus on the future.

A runner also strains toward what is ahead. An involved runner pushes himself as hard as possible, straining every muscle. The Christian needs to do this as well. He ought not to coast along or just get by. In the blood of Jesus, forget the past life; in the Spirit of Jesus, strain for what God has in store for you.

4. What is “pressing on”? How significant is this drive in our spiritual lives?

To press on is to use all our energy and strength to keep going without slowing down. We need that zeal in the everyday work of the kingdom. Conditioning pays off as we successfully run life’s race. Also remember that we do not compete against others, but against our old selves. Life is to be lived fully for the Lord; he who cruises through with no commitment will discover his life is empty and meaningless.

5. What other actions are demanded of us?

Life is an action word; it’s not for couch potatoes, TV addicts, or workaholics. We need to strike a balance between work and leisure to experience God’s renewal. He will refresh us with a break in the hectic pace and the daily routine of life. Conditioning includes adequate rest and leisure, necessary for fighting the devil and his temptations.

6. Compare 1 Timothy 6:12 and 2 Timothy 4:7-8. What last element of racing is a significant factor?

In one word, the answer is goal! We must establish the goal and keep it in sight from the beginning of the race. A runner does not enter a race just because he likes to run; he wants to cross the finish line and succeed. To run without a goal is aimless and pointless. We need to establish goals — short term goals as well as the ultimate goal.

Whether we spend eternity with the Lord or in torment is determined by our race. Stress the two alternatives to the boys. Many believe that God is only love and that all people will go to heaven. This is a good time to let them know the truth.

In all these passages, Paul writes of a crown or prize God reserves for each Christian. Communicate this to the boys, so they will sense the urgency of personal commitment. Only what is done for Jesus Christ will last. Work for Jesus so that we can see lasting crowns in the lives of boys and young men.

PUZZLE

Use the code to see what the Bible has to say about winning.

E V E R Y C H I L D
□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

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

O F G O D C A N
□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

D E F E A T T H E
□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

W O R L D A N D O U R
□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

F A I T H I S W H A T
□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

G I V E S U S
□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

V I C T O R Y. 1 JOHN 5:4 CEV
□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

REMEMBER

You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies. 1 Corinthians 6:19b-20

Are there ways you don’t treat your body well? Do you eat too much junk food? Do you not get enough sleep? Do you slouch? Pick one bad habit and try to change this week.

January Cadet Quest Theme Discussion

Favorite Flavors

Materials required:

- lots of jelly beans in assorted flavors
- chalkboard or large sheet of paper
- a copy of the puzzle for each boy (found on next page)
- Bibles

The theme for the January issue of Quest looks at racism. Just about everyone harbors prejudices, and they aren't necessarily bad. But to "prejudge" a person because of their race, handicaps, or social status makes God angry. We'll be working on breaking down walls of prejudice by looking at where we are all the same and where we differ.

Put out lots of jelly beans in a variety of flavors and tell your boys to help themselves. After a minute or two, ask each boy what his favorite and least favorite flavors are. On the chalkboard (or paper), keep track of the results of the favorite and least favorite flavors. You'll probably find that someone's favorite is someone else's least favorite flavor.

It won't take long before everyone realizes that taste is subjective — what one person likes, another may loathe. Here we've tasted before deciding whether or not we like or dislike certain flavors. But if we had decided we didn't like a certain flavor and refused to taste it, that would be considered prejudice. This is one form of prejudice, and here it isn't necessarily bad — unless, of course, you judge someone else because he likes something you don't or vice versa.

But if we form an opinion of a person based on his race, handicap, hair-style, appearance, social status, finances, or any other outward cause, God says this is wrong. The Bible tells us to love our neighbors, and not to show favoritism. In Christ, all of us are equal. A bigger variety of people makes life more interesting.

1. Does God ever show favoritism (Romans 2:11)?

God doesn't choose to save someone based on their outward situation, appearances, or privileges. He looks instead on their hearts.

2. If a family who was dirty and wearing ragged clothes came to your church, how would they be treated? How should they be treated (James 2:1-4, 8-9)?

We know God doesn't show favoritism, and He doesn't want us to show favoritism/prejudice either. We are not to look down on a poor man who is a Christian because of his poverty. If a rich man is evil, we are not to value him just because of his wealth. We are to love all equally, without any partiality, and treat them accordingly.

Challenge:

1. Why do people decide that one person or race is superior to another?
2. What kind of kids are put down or mocked at your school? Why?
3. How can you reach out to someone who has been unfairly judged in your school or neighborhood?

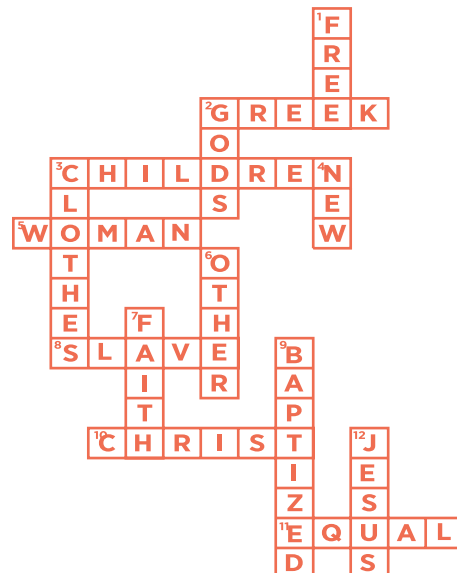
It's easy to talk in generalities about reaching out to people who are not like us. Do you need to apologize to anyone for something you've said or done that shows prejudice? Identify one or two individuals whom you can actually build a relationship with and then get started.

Look up Galatians 3:26-28 (using the CEV) and fill in the missing words. Then put them into the puzzle.

All of you are 2 3 because of your 7 in 10 Jesus. And when you were 9, it was as though you had put on Christ in the same way you put on 4 3. Faith in Christ 12 is what makes each of you 11 with each 6, whether you are a Jew or a 2, a 8 or a 1 person, a man or a 5.

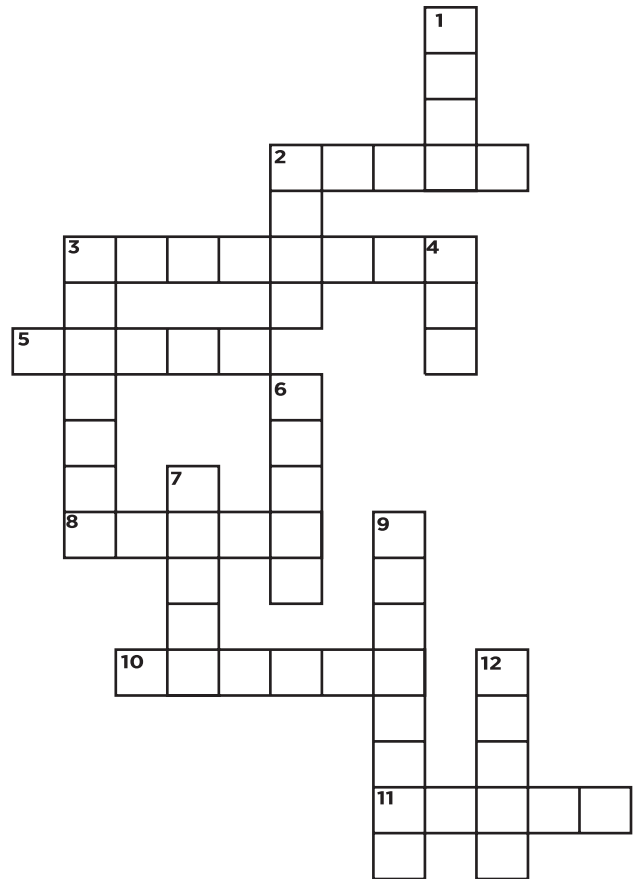
All those who have faith in Jesus Christ are children of God — no matter what nation, sex, or condition. All are equal and stand on the same level in Him.

NOTE: Make enough copies of the puzzle (on the next page) for each of your Cadets.



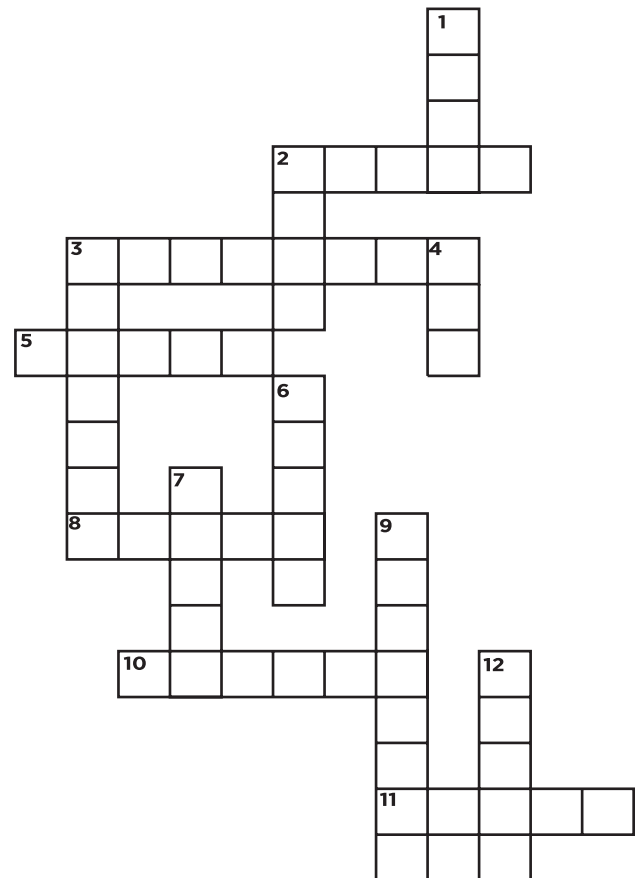
Look up Galatians 3:26-28 (using the CEV) and fill in the missing words. Then put them into the puzzle. Some numbers are used twice, one word goes across and one goes down. Use the other words you already placed to help you figure out which one goes where.

All of you are 2 3 because of your 7 in 10 Jesus. And when you were 9, it was as though you had put on Christ in the same way you put on 4 3. Faith in Christ 12 is what makes each of you 11 with each 6, whether you are a Jew or a 2, a 8 or a 1 person, a man or a 5.



Look up Galatians 3:26-28 (using the CEV) and fill in the missing words. Then put them into the puzzle. Some numbers are used twice, one word goes across and one goes down. Use the other words you already placed to help you figure out which one goes where.

All of you are 2 3 because of your 7 in 10 Jesus. And when you were 9, it was as though you had put on Christ in the same way you put on 4 3. Faith in Christ 12 is what makes each of you 11 with each 6, whether you are a Jew or a 2, a 8 or a 1 person, a man or a 5.



Lesson 12: God's In Control of Our Battles

Matthew 22:34-40

OBJECTIVES

1. The boys will realize what it means to live like God wants them to.
2. The boys will look for ways in which they can love their neighbor who is different from them.

INTRODUCTORY ACTIVITY

Materials Needed:

- Several bowls each with a different type of food
- Covers for the bowls so the boys cannot see what is in each bowl

Some of the food types should be very desirable (e.g. jelly beans, candies, cookies), while others should be either unknown or less desirable (e.g. anchovies, olives, wasabi snacks). None of the items should be dangerous (i.e. allergen) for any of the boys.

Advise the boys you have different types of food in each bowl. Before you uncover any bowl, they need to decide whether or not they will eat some of it. You may wish to start with one of the desirable foods to encourage them to say yes for the next bowls.

Ask the boys if they were afraid of what may be in a bowl. Would it have been easier if there were assurances of what was to come?

We don't always know what lies ahead, but we do know we have God on our side. He gives us assurance of His presence with us and He will fight our battles for us.

QUEST INTRODUCTION

It was time to pack up camp and go home. Theo wished he could stay longer; for him camp had been fantastic. Theo loved being out in God's nature, and he knew that when he got home there were a lot of things for him to do. Theo had chores and homework to catch up on. It always felt like he was too busy and had so many responsibilities without enough time to do everything.

Maybe this camping trip had taught him something about how to handle his struggles, some of which seemed like large "Goliath" problems. Maybe he needed to look at these struggles the way that God saw them. He remembered how David defeated Goliath even though David was much, much smaller. David trusted God would be with him in battle and he got that trust by being close to God. David was known as "a man after God's own heart". David's relationship with God meant he knew God would watch over him, no matter what the big problems were. Theo needed to keep building that kind of relationship with God.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How do we know what is important to God?

We can know what is important to God by our conscience telling us, other people telling us, or God telling us.

If we have spent some time praying and meditating on God's Word, our inner voice can tell us if something is important to God. By building a relationship with God we will grow a Christlike heart within us, which allows us to think like Him. If we try to think of "what would Jesus do" in a situation we will understand what God feels is important.

God also puts people in our lives to tell us what God's will is. Pastors, parents, teachers, Cadet counselors, all help the boys learn what is important to God.

God's Word, the Bible, also tells us what is important to God. Reading the laws of the Old Testament, or the letters of the New Testament, we can read how God spoke to people in Biblical times, and how it still applies today.

2. When we know what's important to God, what should we do?

Once we know what God thinks is important, we cannot use ignorance as an excuse. If we know, but do not act upon it, it is as if we never knew in the first place. As in the parable of the talents (see Matthew 25:14-30), if we take what God gives us and bury it in the ground out of fear, God will not be pleased.

When we recite the Cadet verse, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. John 14:15" we are saying we will do what is important to God in all circumstances.

3. What does it mean to be “a man after God’s own heart”? Acts 13:22.

Being a man after God’s own heart means your heart cares for the same things God’s heart cares for, and things that break God’s heart also break yours. This does not mean you do nothing wrong. David is described as a man after God’s own heart, yet there are many stories of how he disappointed God and did wrong. There are also many stories of how David repented of his sins, and asked God for forgiveness.

4. Read Matthew 22:39. This verse tells us to love our neighbors as ourselves. Who is our neighbor?

The boys have likely heard the story of the Good Samaritan previously; they will know the right answer is “everyone”. Just knowing this answer isn’t enough. Have the boys consider the implications of viewing everyone as their neighbor. Depending on your boys, you can use this opportunity to discuss the issue of racism. Neighborliness does not depend on skin color.

Loving others as you love yourself can also lead to a discussion about loving ourselves. If there are boys with self-esteem issues, or may be involved with self-harm, make sure they feel loved. We can spin this to a love your neighbor as Christ loves you, and wants you to love yourself.

5. Can this big (Goliath type) task of “loving our neighbor” (no matter their race) be accomplished with the help of our God? How?

This task can only be done with the help of God. Our sinful nature tends to look for our own self-interests, rather than the betterment of others. Whether it is wearing a WWJD (What Would Jesus Do) bracelet, or regularly praying for guidance and assistance, we need help to always love our neighbor.

6. What does Paul say loving our neighbor should look like? 1 Cor. 13:4-7.

We typically hear these verses when connected to a wedding, or the love between two specific people, but this applies just as much to the love we exhibit towards all people.

Have the boys give practical examples of how their actions can display these traits towards all of their neighbors.

PUZZLE

Follow the arrows to decipher the verse.

C	U	T	V	E	O	U	C	O	M	E	T	O
Y	O	H	I	Y	R			→	→	↓	↖	↑
L	T	M	O	A	G	E						
L	A	E	R	U	L	S	M	E	,	A	L	L
R	W	N	D	B	L	T		→	↓	←	←	↑
Y	A	A	E	I	W	S	Y	O	U	W	H	O
							↑	→	↑	→	→	↓

A	R	E	W	E	A	R	Y	A	N	D
→	↖	←	↖	↗	←	↖	↓	→	↗	→

B	U	R	D	E	N	E	D	,	A	N	D
→	↑	←	↓	↓	↖	↗	↑		↖	↑	→

I	W	I	L	L	G	I	V	E
↘	→	←	↗	↑	↑	↖	↖	→

Y	O	U	R	E	S	T	MATTHEW 11:28
↘	↑	→	↓	↓	↓	↓	

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 neighbor as yourself.” There is no commandment greater than these. Mark 12:30-31

Show kindness to anyone who needs it, and start breaking down the walls that separate you from others who are different than you.

Lesson 13: Love Your Neighbor

Matthew 22: 34-40

OBJECTIVES

1. Each cadet will understand that loving his neighbor often means loving the unpopular, and accepting and appreciating the differences displayed in people he comes into contact with.
2. Cadets will learn that everyone they come into contact with is their neighbor.
3. Cadets will understand Jesus' directive on dealing with "different" neighbors, when Jesus said, "Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to Me."

INTRODUCTORY ACTIVITY

Materials Needed:

- Two or three apples of different colors (red, yellow, and green; if you can only find two of the three, this will still work)
- Sharp Knife

Show the boys your apples and ask which one looks good to eat. Ask them if the red apple is red inside, and the green one green inside. It's silly to believe that the red apple is red inside and decide not to eat it because of that. All apples are white inside.

Cut the apple around the middle (not from stem to blossom end) and show them the inside. Point out that, even though the apple peels were different colors, the color inside the apples was the same.

Then point out that each apple has a star on the inside. The color of the inside of the fruit and the fact that each apple has a star in the center reminds us that people are the same on the inside too. God doesn't choose to love us based on our outside color, and we should not judge people based on their skin color, or on any other outside appearance.

QUEST INTRODUCTION

I met Eric when he was a 7th grader in school. He moved to our neighborhood from a small southern town. It didn't take me long to see that he had problems. Although he was short with extremely short hair, there was nothing about his appearance that signified to me that he would be sad on the inside. Eric just never seemed to fit in.

On the very first day at school the kids sitting at his table in the cafeteria nonchalantly looked the other way as he drank his milk with two inches of salt in the bottom of his glass. Almost every day someone would "accidentally" knock his books on the floor. No one would laugh, mind you, but then no one helped him pick them up either. Every morning before the bell rang, there were small groups of kids talking, laughing, and playing, but Eric was never part of them.

When he tried out for the basketball team, he felt like he was the only one who didn't belong, even though 15 kids would be cut. No one seemed to notice that he was there. The coach only called him "you."

No one took Eric seriously. In fact, he could have stayed home and no one would have known the difference. No one imagined the pain that he felt every day.

I still wonder what it was that caused the other kids to treat Eric badly. Was it his hair? Maybe it was his accent? Maybe it was his shyness? I guess Eric was a little different than the rest of the kids in his class. For that he paid the price.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. We are all like Eric, at least some of the time. Do you agree or disagree? Why?

"Eric" are everywhere. In fact, all of us feel like Eric at some time in our life. A survey of over 7,000 young people in various churches shows that one out of every five suffers from a strong feeling of inferiority. There is a good chance that you may have an "Eric" in your cadre. (For added resource, check out James Dobson's book, *Hide or Seek*.)

Have each cadet give his opinion of this statement. Let those who disagreed tell their reasons, then the boys that agreed.

If we are honest with ourselves, we all do feel like "Eric" once in a while. If you remember a time when you felt "different" or inferior, share it with the boys. It will definitely help them relate better.

2. If you could have given Eric some advice or encouragement, what would you say to help him gain self respect?

This question allows the boys to play the role of counselor and friend to Eric. You may want to write their suggestions on the board and refer to them later in the lesson.

3. Eric was my neighbor. In what way is he your neighbor (Galatians 6:10)?

It's important that your boys recognize that Eric is their neighbor as Christ defined neighbor throughout Scripture. Galatians 6:10 is one of those passages.

4. What does Jesus tell us our attitude ought to be towards our neighbor?

Jesus tells us that we are to love Eric as ourselves! Ask the guys if the students were loving Eric as themselves. If they had, how would their actions have been different?

5. Read Luke 5:29-32.

- Who were Jesus' neighbors in this passage?
Jesus includes "those who are looked down on" as His neighbors. To Jesus, each person He encountered represented a chance for Him to minister to that person. Christ demonstrated His love to His neighbor by constantly striving to lead them to become new selves, re-born after Christ's likeness and revitalized by His Spirit!
- Why were the Pharisees upset?
They complained because He was eating with tax collectors and sinners.
- What was Jesus' response to them?
He responded that these were the people who needed Him. Those who are well do not seek out a doctor.

6. Jesus tells us in Matthew 25:40, "Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." Does this mean that when we "walk" all over people like Eric, we are "walking" all over God?

Guide the boys' discussion on this in such a way that they feel the importance of showing love and concern for those neighbors who are different.

PUZZLE

Use the code to see what the Bible has to say about how we treat those around us.



T H E S E C O N D I S

T H I S : " L O V E

Y O U R N E I G H B O R

A S Y O U R S E L F . "

T H E R E I S N O

C O M M A N D M E N T

G R E A T E R T H A N

T H E S E . MARK 12:31

REMEMBER

Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law. Romans 13:8

Find a way this week to show your concern and love for an "Eric".

Lesson 14: We're All Alike

Various Passages

OBJECTIVES

1. Cadets will know that all humans — and only humans — were created in the image of God.
2. Cadets will also know that only humans have sinned against God, and as such, need salvation ... and that there is only one way for anyone to be saved. It's the same for all.

INTRODUCTORY ACTIVITY

Shoes are very personal things. You can't run a race in someone else's shoes. In the same way, in the body of Christ we each must run the race. Everyone needs his own set of running shoes. And while we all need shoes, our shoes will be different as we run the race ahead.

What to Do

1. Sit the boys in a circle and ask them to remove their shoes, and place them in the middle of the circle.
2. Divide the group into two or more teams and give each team a piece of paper with the following two tasks on them.
 - ▶ List as many features as possible that the shoes in the middle of the circle have in common.
 - ▶ List as many features as possible that make each pair of shoes unique.
3. Have the teams read their lists.
4. Next, have everyone close their eyes and grab two shoes from the pile in the center of the circle.
5. Once everyone has a pair of shoes, they must try to put them on if possible. If their foot will not fit, just put their toes in the shoes.
6. Then, wearing the shoes, ask them to run to the other side of the room and touch the wall and come back.

Ask: What was it like wearing someone else's shoes? Do you think they helped you or hindered you in your race?

Let's look tonight at ways we are all alike (the ways shoes are all alike) and then as members in the body of Christ how we can use our differences (again like the shoes) to bless the body — called the church.

QUEST INTRODUCTION

Did you ever go to a park or to a mall just to watch people? People watching can be fun, and it's a pretty common thing to do. People come in a wide variety of shapes and sizes, colors, nationalities, and abilities. Some have a great sense of humor while others seem to have none. Some love to meet new people and are very outgoing. Others are shy and find it hard to talk to strangers. We're all different.

But there are important ways that we're all alike too. In fact, our similarities are greater than our differences. Let's see what the Bible says.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What do you think it means to be created "in the image of God"? See Genesis 1:26, 31 and Ephesians 4:24.

People were created to rule over the rest of creation. Since God is the overall ruler and owner of creation, this makes us His stewards. People were also endowed with true righteousness and holiness, vital aspects of being in God's image.
2. What does it mean that all humans are part of the same family? See Genesis 3:20 and Acts 17:26.

If families could go back far enough in their genealogies, they would find that they all have the same original set of parents — Adam and Eve of the Garden of Eden.
3. Because we all share the same original parents, what else do we share? See Romans 5:12; 3:23.

Our original parents sinned, and because of that, death and sin came into the world. Since our first parents, every single human born has been born a sinner with one exception — Jesus of Nazareth, whose "biological" father was not human, but God.
4. Sin is a problem. It separates us from God, who is holy and hates sin. What is the solution to that separation? See Romans 6:23; Isaiah 53:6; and John 14:6.

The only solution is a gift from God — Christ Jesus. He is the way, and the only way for sinners the world over to come to God.

5. People on earth come from more than 200 countries. They answer to kings, presidents, prime ministers, and other top rulers. What ruler do they have in common? See Psalm 47:7; 66:8.

God Himself is the king of all the earth. All other rulers ultimately answer to Him. And He wants all people everywhere to recognize His kingship and praise Him.

6. According to Job 12:10 and Psalm 145:9, what reason do people the world over have for praising God?

Every single person is under the protection of God's providence, and He is good to all.

Life is short. No one knows how long they will live, and youth is no guarantee that someone will be around a lot longer. God deserves our praise and worship today.

PUZZLE

Unscramble the words to the verse below for an important reminder.

THEREFORE, **AS** **GOD'S**
EFREHERTO **SA** **DSGO**

CHOSEN **PEOPLE**,
NHSCEO **PLEPOE**

HOLY **AND** **LOVED**,
OYLH **NAD** **DVEOL**

CLOTHE **YOURSELVES**
CEHOLT **LURYVSEEOS**

WITH **COMPASSION**,
TIHW **SNOMCOSPIA**

KIDNESS, **HUMILITY**,
NSNKSIDE **TUMLIYHI**

GENTLENESS **AND**
SNTELESGNE **NAD**

PATIENCE. **COLOSSIANS 3:12**
NIPEATEC

REMEMBER

So in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. Romans 12:5

All Christians belong to each other. Find a way to do something for someone else this week. Allow someone who wants to, to help you.

February *Cadet Quest* Theme Discussion

Wide, Long, High, Deep

Materials needed:

- 4 people willing to act out this skit. It works best if they have read through it previously and know what actions they will be doing. Have people willing to exaggerate the motions.
- Two long measuring tapes (sport style work well)
- Ladder
- Shovel

<p>1 We are here today to ask the question...</p> <p>2 How wide (with appropriate body movement)</p> <p>3 How long (with appropriate body movement)</p> <p>4 How high (with appropriate body movement)</p> <p>1 How deep (with appropriate body movement)</p> <p>All is the love of Christ?</p> <p>All (thoughtful pose) HMMMMMMMMMM</p> <p>1 Sometimes</p> <p>2 when we are sad (1 and 2 strike a sad pose)</p> <p>3 sometimes</p> <p>4 when we are mad (3 and 4 strike a mad pose)</p> <p>All we think we know</p> <p>2 How wide (with appropriate body movement)</p> <p>3 How long (with appropriate body movement)</p> <p>4 How high (with appropriate body movement)</p> <p>1 How deep (with appropriate body movement)</p> <p>All is the love of Christ.</p> <p>1 We think</p> <p>2 it's thin (with appropriate body movement)</p> <p>3. it's small (with appropriate body movement)</p> <p>4 it's short (with appropriate body movement)</p> <p>1 it's shallow (with appropriate body movement)</p> <p>All But it's not!</p> <p>1 The love of Christ</p> <p>2 (takes a measuring tape and runs left while 1 runs to the right with the other end) is even wider than this!</p>	<p>3 (4 hold the second tape as 3 runs down the center aisle with the opposite end) or the love of Christ is even longer than this!</p> <p>4 (excited) Yeah, guys, yeah! And the love of Christ is even higher than this (a number of guys run in with a ladder; 4 looks up at it; The others urge him to go up; he shakes his head and points up, way up!) The love of Christ is even higher than this. (the ladder is taken away) Phew!</p> <p>1 And the love of Christ... (looks around) Hmm, I know! Outside... just wait. (1 runs to the door and grabs a shovel) And the love of Christ is even deeper than the hole I'm going to dig out front by the church sign. See ya!</p> <p>2,3,4 Wait! Jesus' love is even deeper than any hole you can dig.</p> <p>1 Really? Well, that saves me a lot of work!</p> <p>2 We can't measure the love of Christ!</p> <p>3 It surpasses all knowledge</p> <p>4 but the fullness of God</p> <p>2 will fill up</p> <p>3 you</p> <p>4 and you</p> <p>2 and you (do as many "and you" as needed)</p> <p>1 (coming up the aisle) and all of you</p> <p>All And that's a lot!</p> <p style="text-align: right;">The End</p>
--	---

Discussion:

The boys likely laughed at least once during the skit. Let them know there is nothing wrong with laughter, but that God's love is serious. No matter who they are, where they are, or how they are, God will love them – they can't escape it.

Have the boys talk about times when they may have felt outside the reaches of love. Have the boys talk about times when they felt fully embraced by love.

Lesson 15: God's In Control of Our Lives

Exodus 3:1-10

OBJECTIVES

1. The boys will realize God has a plan for their entire life.
2. The boys will build an acceptance to looking for God's plan and taking steps to follow it

INTRODUCTORY ACTIVITY

Materials Needed:

- A candle
- One inflated balloon
- One balloon filled with water

Ask the boys if they can tell the difference between the two balloons. There is actually no difference in the balloons, the difference is in what fills them. Both balloons are made of the same material and are about the same size.

Ask the boys if they know what will happen if you hold the balloons over the lit candle.

The inflated balloon will pop when brought near the flame. The water-filled balloon will not pop.

Following Christ, inviting Him to fill us, does not mean we will not experience hardships, but it does mean we have His power within us to overcome the trials.

QUEST INTRODUCTION

Theo got up early one morning during the campout. He grabbed some kindling and some sticks and, before long, had a campfire going. He really liked this time of day when he could be all alone with his thoughts. He carefully listened to the sounds of birds and animals as they scurried around. He could see a small pond nearby and on the far side he saw a doe with her two small fawns drinking from the pond. He was able to watch them for about 5 minutes before they walked away. *It doesn't get much cooler than that* – he thought to himself.

Earlier in the year Theo had earned his wildlife badge and, in fact, had done almost all of the Cadet badges dealing with the outdoors. God certainly had given him an interest in the outdoors. He liked backpacking and rock climbing as well. He also liked his science classes. Theo assumed whatever God had planned for him in the future, it would include working and playing in God's beautiful creation.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When was the last time you stopped and watched an animal for a few minutes?

Allow each of the boys an opportunity to answer but don't spend too much time on this question. The question allows each of the boys to speak, without fear of giving an incorrect answer. The boys may wish to talk about watching their pet dog, cat, fish or lizard.

2. When was the last time you just sat still and enjoyed God's beautiful creation? What did you see?

You may wish to combine this with the first question.

Have a personal example ready for this question. Sitting still and enjoying nature can be a peaceful lake or it could be noisy rivers, the point is about the viewer sitting still and enjoying.

3. What plans did God have for Moses? How was Moses prepared for this?

The plans for Moses included being in charge of a large group of Israelites, confronting national leaders, and wandering around in the wilderness. Moses spent his childhood years in the house of a Levite, learning the rules and lifestyle of an Israelite. He spent his teenage and young adult years in the house of Pharaoh, learning how the Egyptian leadership lived. He spent his adult years as a shepherd, learning the ways of the wilderness. Every step of his life was God's way of preparing Moses for the tasks He had in store for him.

4. Not everyone enjoys being in nature like Theo, but everyone has their own interests, gifts and abilities. Read 1 Peter 4:10. What should you do with the gifts, hobbies and even games that you are interested in?

The passage from 1 Peter is clear as to what they boys should do with the gifts they have been given. Allow the boys to consider how their specific blend of gifts can be used to serve others.

Explain to the boys that you don't need to be a church employee or work for a Christian company to serve others in a Christian manner. Whether you are an honest car mechanic, a sympathetic nurse, or a respectful accountant, using your gifts in a manner in which others can see Jesus living through you is what you are called to do.

5. How does Jeremiah 29:11 show us that God is in control of our lives?

If you ask the boys if God knows everything, they will likely say yes. If you ask the boys if God would lie to them, the answer is no. So, if He is all-knowing and He is the truth, when He says "I know the plans I have for you," you must believe Him. God has created us with a free will, yet He knows the plans He desires us to follow.

6. How is God preparing you for His future plans?

Let the boys consider how their experiences at this point in their lives may be useful for God's future purposes. Even the fact they are in Cadets could be a life-changing influence that allows them to serve others at some point in their lives.

PUZZLE

Life can get scary, but take comfort that God has control of our lives. Use the list of things God can help you with and fit them in the puzzle below.

Family
Friends
Future
School
Siblings
Storms
Trouble

S C H O O L
S T O R M S
S I B L I N G S
F U T U R E
F R I E N D S
T R O U B L E
F A M I L Y

REMEMBER

For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Ephesians 2:10

Look for a chance this week to do a good deed, no matter how small. Afterwards, thank God for giving you this opportunity.

Lesson 16: I Belong!

Colossians 3:12-14

OBJECTIVES

1. Each cadet will understand that belonging with God's chosen people is a wonderful thing, bringing both privileges and responsibilities.
2. Each cadet will begin to care about someone he hasn't cared about in the past.

INTRODUCTORY ACTIVITY

Materials Needed:

- Carabiner
- Rope

Ask the boys if they know where, and why, a carabiner and rope would be used.

Mountain climbing takes special skill. Most mountain climbers climb in teams. The members of the climbing team use rope and carabiners to tie themselves together. That way, if one of the climbers slips and falls, the other team members will be able to save him. It must be comforting for the climbers to know that they have each other. Each member of the team needs the others to reach the top of the mountain.

As Christians, we don't have a rope to hold us together, but that doesn't mean we don't need each other the way that mountain climbers do. We belong to a team, a group that is there to pull us back if we are about to fall into sin. Being a member of this group comes with both privileges and responsibility. We have fellowship with other Christians, but we also bear a responsibility to help them back on the path if they slip. Our fellow Christians are there to lift us up and help us stay on the trail when we face trials. Let's look at what it means to be part of this team.

QUEST INTRODUCTION

"Get out! You don't belong here! This is a private meeting — just for us!" The whole group looked crossly at Jared as he slowly, silently backed away. He was new at school and looked forward to making some new friends. He would have to keep looking.

He left, but the words stayed with him ... and they stung. "You don't belong here!" He played the words over in his mind. Sometimes he felt like he didn't belong anywhere. He just wanted some place where he knew he fit in.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. It's one thing to ask a group if you can join them. It's quite different if someone asks you to join them. If you are a Christian, you belong to a very special group. What group is it and how did you get in (Colossians 3:12)?

The group is called "God's chosen people" in this passage, which also explains how we got in. He picked us. Have the boys talk about the difference between choosing and being chosen.

2. Belonging to a group usually involves both privileges and responsibilities. You get some things from the group and the group expects something from you. One group you belong to is your Cadet club. What privileges do you get as a cadet?

Privileges include awards for achievement, adult male role models, campouts, field trips, uniforms, magazines and other publications, learning or improving skills, and spending time with men who care about them. There are more ... see how many they can think of and write both lists on a chalkboard or large poster paper.

3. What do your counselors expect of you as a cadet?

Club expectations include obedience and good behavior from cadets. They may also include levels of attendance, dues or other financial commitment, and achievement in merit badges and rank advancement. Add your own club's expectations to the mix.

4. Belonging to God also has privileges and responsibilities. What are some of the privileges?

Give the boys time to think before they answer. If they don't come up with it themselves, share this absolutely amazing truth from John 1:11-13. God has adopted us into His own family and calls us His children! And from our text today, we see that we are holy and dearly loved. Discuss what that means.

You might also discuss with your boys the privileges of the sacraments — baptism and communion — which come through membership in God's family.

5. Colossians 3:12-14 tells us some of the responsibilities of belonging to God's family. Give some examples from your life.

- Compassion — They should know this, as it's part of the Cadet Code. If they are uncertain, you can refer them to page 11 in the R•P•B Guidebook. It mainly means caring for someone in need of help ... and doing something about it.
- Kindness — Being pleasant and caring for someone else's well-being. It also means not being picky or always pointing out someone else's small mistakes.
- Humility — It means being humble and unassuming. In sports, it's different to win a game in humility, but that should still be a part of who we are. Instead of having pride (the opposite of humility), we should give God the glory for the strength and skill He has blessed us with.
- Gentleness — We should deal gently with people; that means being kind rather than harsh or violent, which are the opposite.
- Patience — Cadets should know what this is; you counselors certainly do. Patience lets a person put up with pain or trials without complaint. It requires self-control.

6. Not being part of the “in” group can hurt deeply. What “in” groups or “out” groups do you see around you?

Caucasian, African-American, Latino, Native Americans, girls, boys, freshmen, seniors, athletes, non-athletes, computer geeks, goths, children, gangs, schools, etc. Does your cadre have any boys who have not been born in the USA or Canada? Do they feel like they are on the “outside”? Does where you live make a difference? To many people it does! (“He’s from the wrong side of the tracks.”) Let’s also be honest enough to admit that such prejudice effects more than just white people.

PUZZLE

Use the code to see what the Bible says about what group you belong too.

E O D A S L R T Z F M B N I W Y P										
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		
F O R			W E		A R E		A L L			
5,6	1,2	4	8	1	2,3	4	1	2,3	3,4	3,4
B A P T I Z E D			B Y							
6,7	2,3	9	4,5	7,8	5	1	2	6,7	8,9	
O N E		S P I R I T				S O				
1,2	7	1	3	9	7,8	4	7,8	4,5	3	1,2
A S		T O		F O R M						
2,3	3	4,5	1,2	5,6	1,2	4	6			
O N E		B O D Y		1 CORINTHIANS 12:13A						
1,2	7	1	6,7	1,2	2	8,9				

REMEMBER

Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. John 15:13

Think of someone who is hard for you to get along with. Take the first step toward having a better fellowship with the person.

Lesson 17: Who Else Belongs?

Ephesians 2:11-22

OBJECTIVES

1. Each cadet will understand the importance of tearing down walls that prevent them from accepting other Christians as brothers.

The ancient distinction between Jew and Gentile was broken in Jesus Christ! The hostility is no longer to be tolerated although the distinction is still evident. Today we make distinctions in the church between various groups of people, but these distinctions should never be made with hostility and hatred or we destroy the oneness we have in Christ Jesus.

INTRODUCTORY ACTIVITY

Materials Needed:

- One balloon for every two boys in your cadre

Have the boys pair up and join left hands. Give each pair a balloon and tell them that they have to blow it up and tie a knot in the end. They may not let go of each others' hands or use their joined hands. Remind them that they're going to have to work together in order to get the balloon blown up. Once they've finished, ask them the following questions:

1. How did you work together to get the balloon blown up?
2. How was this activity similar to sticking with a friend during a difficult time?
3. What characteristics should you look for if you want a friend who will stick with you in difficult situations?

Blowing up a balloon might not be that important of a job, but through this lesson we can see how important friends are. There are few things as valuable as a good friend. These good friends love us and are there for us, even during the hard times.

QUEST INTRODUCTION

Prejudice, discrimination, best friends, segregation, bigotry, cliques ... what do all these things have in common? No, they're not all bad. Having good friends, for instance, is a wonderful thing and "best friends" may not seem to fit with the other words. But if you think about it, you can see what these words all share is "divisiveness." They all put up walls that divide some people from others.

In this lesson, we'll take a look at some walls that separate one group of people from another, and whether those walls are good or bad.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Name calling is one experience we have all participated in. What names were being used to describe the two groups in Ephesians 2:11 and 19?

The names mentioned in Ephesians 2:11 and 19 are foreigners, aliens, uncircumcised, and Gentiles. The "in" group called itself the "circumcision" and was known as the Jewish nation. All these terms are implied to be "mislabeled" by Paul in this passage. The hints to this mislabeling are found "in the body by the hands of men." In fact, these Gentiles were circumcised (Colossians 2:11-12) and were part of the new "Israel" of God (Galatians 6:11-16).

2. Without the knowledge of God, these outsiders are excluded. What were they separated from (vs. 12)? How did these outsiders get in (vs. 13)?

The Gentiles were separated from Christ, alienated from the nation of Israel, and strangers to the covenant! Thus, they had no hope and were without God in the world.

These "far away" people were brought in through Jesus Christ. It is God's actions that bring people to His church. It is through His blood and not your choice. Get that straight, please! In Isaiah 57:15-21, note that God is the acting party in the healing process. Who is the Lord "bringing in" through you? Your club? Your church?

3. Through history, people have used many things to keep "those" people out — walls, gang graffiti, and a superior attitude are just a few. Only Jews were allowed inside a wall of the temple in Jerusalem. All others, even those with offerings, were limited to the outer court. Jesus talks to us about building "walls" in churches. What does He tell us in Mark 11:17?

Jesus wanted the temple to be a "house of prayer for all nations." Between the high outside wall and the inner barrier of the Jerusalem temple, all sorts of merchants bought and sold a variety of products. People traveling with a load even used the temple for a shortcut rather than travel around it. This traffic mess was where the Gentiles were supposed to pray!

Idol Worship

The Bible lessons in the December issue focus on God's attributes — some which belong only to Him, and others that we should imitate.

The second commandment, forbidding idol worship (Exodus 20:4), can apply to any false concept of God that takes the place of our true Creator. To help your boys identify some of the common "idols" — which are distortions of God's real character — give them the following list of "gods," and ask them to identify the one(s) they struggle with.

1. Heirloom God

This is a secondhand god, one you inherited from your parents. You never really discovered this god for yourself; you just believed in him because of what others told you and because your parents do.

2. Cultural God

This god represents the current dominant values of the culture you live in. He wants us to be beautiful, rich, and successful.

3. Killjoy God

This god is in your conscience, always reminding you not to have too much fun. He has no sense of humor and is always saying "no."

4. Enforcer God

This god is always punishing you for your sins even though they're forgiven. You can never relax because you know he's looking over your shoulder, waiting to nail you.

5. Jellyfish God

This god is helpless in the face of injustice. He allows sin in the world because he's not strong enough to do anything about it. This god promises to answer your prayers, but never comes through.

6. Traditional God

This god is carefully defined by those who think they have him all figured out. You can never challenge their view from Scripture, because there's nothing new to learn about him — he's utterly comfortable and predictable.

7. Absentee God

This god may have created the world and might be returning some day, but nobody can really know him today.

8. Cosmic Bellhop God

This one is also called the Santa Claus god. You call him on the hot line and give him your list of requests. He exists just to serve you, and you ignore him whenever you don't need anything.

• • •

Now that you've considered these common misconceptions of God, take a look at some of the ways the Bible describes the true nature of God. (Counselor, the boys probably don't need to look up all these references, but we list several so you can choose from the list.)

- Unchanging — Psalm 93:2; Numbers 23:19; 1 Samuel 15:29
- Majestic — Psalm 145:5; 2 Peter 1:16-17
- Wise — Job 12:13; Proverbs 2:6; Proverbs 3:19; Isaiah 28:29
- Loving — John 3:16; 1 John 4:7-10
- Gracious — Acts 15:11; Romans 3:24; Ephesians 2:5
- Just — Deuteronomy 32:4; Psalm 111:6-8; Daniel 4:37; Romans 3:25-26; 2 Thessalonians 1:6; Revelation 15:3
- Wrathful — Psalm 78:32-38; Nahum 1:2-8; Romans 11:22
- Jealous — Exodus 20:5; Deuteronomy 4:24

Encourage the boys to be faithful in their relationship to God, spending time getting to know Him through His Word and through prayer. Only when we truly know who our great God is can we worship Him.

Lesson 18: God's In Control of Watching Over You

Genesis 15:1-8

OBJECTIVES

1. The boys will understand that in times of worry, they have a God who watches over them.
2. The boys will develop a trust in a God who cares for them and calm their fears.

INTRODUCTORY ACTIVITY

Materials Needed:

- White handkerchief (other cloth or dollar bill can also work)
- Isopropyl alcohol
- Water
- Table salt
- Glass
- Tongs
- Lighter or matches.

Fill the glass 2/3rd full with a 50:50 mixture of alcohol and water, add a generous pinch of salt (this will make the flames orange and easier to see).

Dunk the handkerchief, making sure the entire handkerchief is wet, squeezing out any extra solution, so it is not dripping wet.

Holding the cloth with the tongs, light the handkerchief with the lighter. It should burn for about 30 seconds and then go out.

Explain how the presence of God in our lives (the water mixed with the alcohol) protects us from evil. God's protection is of our heavenly bodies, it is still possible for us to get sick, or even die, but our salvation is still sure.

QUEST INTRODUCTION

It was almost time for the night hike. Counselor Curt had told everyone to bring a flashlight to the campout. Theo had his flashlight and was turning it on and off, trying to get it to shine brighter. The light was very dim and sometimes when he shook it, the light got a little bit brighter. It still wasn't very bright though. Theo was nervous to go on the hike without a strong light, but he didn't want to tell anybody that he was a bit scared.

Now it was time for the hike. Everyone went outside and saw a full moon shining brightly. Theo tried out his dimly lit flashlight and realized it gave him plenty of light to see the path. Theo thanked God for making all of this work out. He thought of how he sometimes worried too much and forgot that God was in control. For his devotions that night he read Psalm 23, thinking about the Cadet theme of "God's in Control".

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. In verse 1 God told Abram to not be afraid. Why would Abram have been afraid?

The boys may have different ideas about why Abram would have been afraid. Seeing God, even if in a vision, would be a frightening sight. If your concept of God is one of judgement and punishment, then His presence would not be a comfort, but rather bring fear.

There is not much that would be more frightening than having God approach you. If God tells you that you need not be afraid in that situation, there is nothing in this world that God cannot protect you from.

2. What types of things might make someone your age nervous?

Allow the boys to speak freely, there are no wrong answers. What may make one boy nervous (e.g., public speaking) may not be a problem for others. Do not let the boys belittle each other in regards to their fears.

3. If you ever get nervous, what are some things you can do to make it better?

Tie this question in to the previous answers. The simple answer is to trust God. Prayer is a means to have God's presence nearby; God is close enough to talk with, He is close enough to help you through the current situation.

Try to have the boys look for practical steps they can take to make this happen. Is there something they can hold or look at, to help them remember God's presence with them? Is there a Bible verse they can have printed out and keep in their pocket? Can having a special stone that they can rub smooth remind them of Christ being their Rock?

4. Paul knew about Abraham's belief in God (Romans 4:20-21). How does this example give you hope?

The passage does not state that Abraham didn't have times of difficulty, but that even in these times he did not waver. We have more of the story, we have seen the first coming of Jesus, and we have received assurances of His coming again; if Abraham was able to trust God's promises, we should be able to as well.

We have the full New Testament as proof of God fulfilling His Old Testament promises; we can be assured He will keep His New Testament promises.

Ask the boys what makes them believe someone's promise to them, and what gives them doubts. How does this compare to the promises of God?

5. What is promised to us, if we put our faith in Jesus Christ (Galatians 3:14)?

By trusting in Jesus, the answer to the promises given to Abraham many years ago, we are promised the Holy Spirit. Jesus called the Spirit a comforter and a mediator for us. The promise of the Spirit assures us of a relationship with the Trinity who will be with us wherever, and whenever, we go.

6. How can remembering that God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit is in control help to take away our worries?

As a youngster, having a parent with us in times of worry gave a feeling of security. Having someone who has done something before help show you the way makes it less worrisome to do an activity for the first time. Even adults find it calming to have someone work with them, showing them the way.

Having a God who has promised to be with us in all situations is similar, except in a permanent fashion.

This would be good spot to include a personal story of God's presence calming your fears and worries.

PUZZLE

There can be a lot of things in life that make us anxious. Listed below are in just a few, find them in the word search.

BULLIES	JOB	SICKNESS
DARKNESS	PARENTS	SLEEPOVERS
FAMILY	PETS	SPORTS
FUTURE	PRESENTATIONS	STORMS
GRADES	SCHOOL	TEACHERS
GRANDPARENTS	SIBLINGS	TESTS



REMEMBER

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:6-7

What are you anxious about? Make sure you pray about this every day for the next week.

Lesson 19: What A Mighty God We Serve

Various Passages

OBJECTIVES

1. The cadets will be able to explain what omnipotence is, and will be able to say why it's good that God — and only God — is omnipotent.
2. The cadets will know what kinds of things God can do and what kinds He cannot do.
3. Cadets will seek God's strength to live holy lives for Him.

INTRODUCTORY ACTIVITY

Materials Needed:

- A very heavy object that none of your Cadets will be able to lift (a piano, a very large rock, etc.)

Tell the boys you need a very strong volunteer to do something for you. Be sure to do this carefully so no one's feelings are hurt. Ask the boys if they have faith in the volunteer to be able to do what you'll ask him to do. Then tell your volunteer to pick up the object and carry it out of the room. He may not push it because it might damage the floor. Set it up so the task cannot be done. Be sure your cadet volunteer gives up before he hurts himself.

Then ask if any of the boys (or you) could pick up and carry this object. After they respond, tell them you know of Someone in the room who could do it. Remind them that God made this whole world, and anything that small would be no problem for God. He could just speak and the object would be moved!

QUEST INTRODUCTION

"Hey Josh, wait up!" Josh turned to see his friend Jason hurrying to walk home from school with him. Jason caught up, and without pausing, exclaimed "Sam asked me a question today, and I didn't have an answer for him. Maybe you can help."

"Okay, what is it?"

"Well, God is strong, right?"

"Uh, yeah" Josh knew Sam didn't believe in God, so he wondered where this was going.

"And He can do anything, right?"

"Yep."

"Well, here's the question Sam asked me, 'Can God make a rock so big and heavy that He can't lift it?'"

Josh looked at Jason thoughtfully, trying to come up with a good answer.

Our lesson this week is on the incredible power of God.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. There are a multitude of things God can do that no one else can. How would you define or describe the power of God?
Their answers should include concepts along these lines: The power of God is His ability and strength to bring to pass whatever He wants to.
2. What does the word omnipotent mean? Maybe you can figure it out by defining the two parts of it — omni and potent.
Potent is a fairly common word meaning power. A skunk is said to have a potent, or strong smell. A potentate is a powerful individual.
The word omni means "all." In science classes they may have learned that carnivores are meat eaters, herbivores are plant eaters, and omnivores eat anything. Some corporations have "Omni" at the beginning of their name to make them look important.
Together, omnipotent means all powerful. God's omnipotence finds expression in the name *El-Shaddai*, which is translated into English as God Almighty. The NIV uses the word "almighty" 345 times, and every time, it refers to God alone.
3. Why is it important that God is omnipotent (Daniel 4:35)?
Daniel's writing makes it clear that God can do as He pleases. Perhaps it would help to explain that all the power that exists belongs to God. In other words, there isn't any power anywhere that doesn't belong to God. He gives power, but it doesn't reduce His power. Just as everything we can see belongs to God, so does everything we can't, including power. So He has always been, is now, and will always be omnipotent.

4. What area of God's power do these verses describe?

- Psalm 66:9 **Preservation, or providence**
- Psalm 89:11 **Creation**
- Romans 9:22 **Judgment**

5. Read what Isaiah the prophet said when he had a vision of being in the presence of the holy God (Isaiah 6:1-5). What does the passage say about the difference between the holy God and the people He has created?

Isaiah said, "Woe is me! I am ruined!" Some versions say "undone," which describes a person who has completely fallen apart because he has seen a vision of God. Isaiah described himself as having unclean lips. His reaction was not unusual for someone confronted with a vision of God. The reason is that they see God is holy, while they recognize their sinfulness. They can see the vast difference between themselves and God.

6. Are there limits to God's power? Think of the question Sam asked Jason in the introduction. If you were Josh, how would you answer it?

Some people would say that God can do anything. This means He can make a rock so big and heavy He can't lift it, and then He can still lift it anyway. But that's a contradiction, and God is not a God of confusion or contradictions. The fact is, Almighty God cannot make a rock so big and heavy He can't lift it, and it's silly to even think that way. But there are a number of things that God can't do, and a study of those will help us understand this situation.

PUZZLE

Use the code to learn about God's power.

	1	2	3	4	5
●	C	T	E	O	W
■	R	G	N	J	Y
◕	I	M	S	A	U
▲	L	D	P	E	H

Y O U R R I G H T H A N D,
 5 4 5 1 1 1 2 5 2 5 4 3 5

L O R D, W A S M A J E S T I C
 5 4 1 5 5 4 5 2 4 4 5 3 2 1 1

I N P O W E R, Y O U R
 1 3 5 4 5 5 1 5 4 5 1

R I G H T H A N D, L O R D,
 1 1 2 5 2 5 4 3 5 5 4 1 5

S H A T T E R E D T H E
 3 5 4 2 2 3 1 5 5 2 5 3

E N E M Y. EXODUS 15:6
 4 3 3 2 5

REMEMBER

For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse. Romans 1:20

If you try to improve your spiritual life on your own you will meet with failure. It takes God's power to help you. Strive to live a holy life this week, drawing on the power of God by asking the Holy Spirit to fill and enable you.

Lesson 20: God Is Great, God Is Good...

Various Passages

OBJECTIVES

1. Each cadet will be able to explain God's goodness, and will understand how it relates to His omnipotence.
2. Cadets will be grateful to God for His goodness to them.

INTRODUCTORY ACTIVITY

Materials Needed:

- A small prize (Mr. Goodbar candy bars would be a good choice for this activity)
- Paper and pencils

Divide your cadre into teams of two to three boys. Tell them that you're giving them a good chance to do well and there's a good prize for the winning team. Ask each group to remember and write down as many products or advertisements as they can remember that emphasize good or goodness. An example is: "Mmm Mmm good" for Campbell's soup. Check the results and award your prize to the winning team.

Then tell them that we use the words good and goodness in many different ways, but only God is truly good. Tonight you'll learn more about God's goodness.

QUEST INTRODUCTION

Tyler listened as his little sister recited the prayer she had learned to say before dinner.

*God is great, God is good,
Let us thank Him for our food,
By His hand we must be fed,
Give us Lord our daily bread.
Amen.*

After the prayer, Tyler's family began eating, but his mind was still on the words he had heard so often. "Dad, I've been thinking," he finally spoke up. Seeing his dad look up at him, he went on. "What if God wasn't so great or wasn't so good?"

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What can we learn about God's goodness from Genesis 1:31 and Psalm 119:68?

God showed His goodness in creation. Everything He made was very good. There were no flaws in it. The design in creation displays the awesome power and goodness of God. As one small illustration of this, tell the boys to think of how God designed their eyes. The fact that they transmit visual images to the brain is amazing enough, but God also gave us eyelids, eyelashes, eyebrows, and sockets in the skull for protection. Without those, it's possible that most people would be blind long before they reach old age. Read Psalm 139:14 with the cadets to reinforce the idea of God's goodness in creation.

In Psalm 119:68, the psalmist wrote that God is good and He does good. The second part describes His actions, but the first defines His essence, or being.

2. What are some of the words in these verses that describe God's goodness?

- Psalm 33:5 **Righteousness, justice, and unfailing love**
- Psalm 145:8 **Gracious and compassionate**

3. In our last lesson, we talked about God's great power, which is called omnipotence. Today we are looking at His goodness. It's important that they go together. Think about Tyler's question in the introduction, and answer these questions.

- What if God were great (omnipotent), but not good?
Think of what it would be like to have all power under the control of someone like Satan. Or even anyone not good. He could use his power for revenge. He could punish everyone in horrible ways, simply for his delight, and not give anyone a chance for salvation. Let the boys' imaginations run for a while on this question.
- What if God were good, but not great?

This is what some of today's liberal thinkers are trying to tell us. There is a movement called open theism, which started in 1980, and has been growing alarmingly since five essays were published in 1994. Open theists say that God can only know the future if He has predetermined it completely. That's true, and it's where they agree with Calvinists. But where Calvinists go on from there to say that God has predetermined all things, the open theists deny

that God has ordained the future or knows what it will be. Their God, in other words, is just a nice guy, but without power. There doesn't seem to be much point in asking him for anything then, does there?

- What if God were not great and not good?

Again, the question should generate some interesting discussion. But it's not as dramatic if God is less than great or good. He might mean to do harm to people, but would be limited in his ability to do so. This seems more like Satan who is neither great nor good!

- What does it mean for us that God is great and is good?

His goodness means that He wants the best for us, and His greatness means that He can follow through on it. Purposefully read Romans 8:28-39 and let it sink in. Then refer back to verse 28 and explain that everything that is going on in the boys' lives right now — whether it seems good or bad — is designed for their good and to ultimately bring them closer and closer to Jesus Christ. At least that's true if, as the verse clarifies, they love Him and are called according to His purpose. We should praise God for His greatness and goodness.

4. Two other verses that help us understand God's holiness are Job 34:10 and Habakkuk 1:13. From those passages and what you've learned so far, try to come up with a definition of holiness.

The questions we've answered up to this point show us that God, the Holy One, is one of a kind. No one else is holy the way God is. Louis Berkhof, in his Manual of Christian Doctrine, puts it this way: "The holiness of God is first of all that divine perfection by which He is absolutely distinct from all His creatures, and is exalted above them in infinite majesty." This is often what people think of when they think holy — a majestic, exalted God over all.

The two verses in this question add something significant. They show us that God hates sin. In fact, it is impossible to overestimate how much God hates sin. And it is His holiness that makes Him hate it. He is perfect in virtue, and His holiness makes Him want to be as far removed from sin as possible.

Any definition of holiness that the cadets come up with should include at least those two aspects — exalted above creation and hating sin.

5. Who benefits from God's goodness?

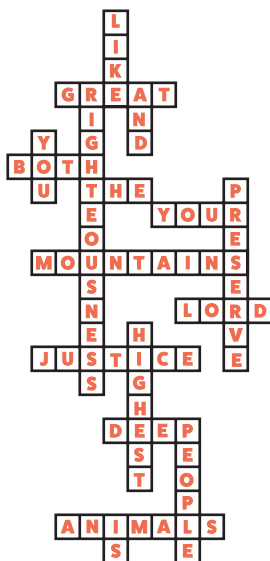
- Psalm 36:6 - Both humans and animals are preserved by God's goodness.
- Psalm 107:9 - The hungry and thirsty.
- Nahum 1:7 - Those who trust in Him.
- Matthew 6:26 - Even the birds of the air are carefully preserved by the heavenly Father.

6. What do you think is the greatest act of goodness that God has done for you? Galatians 4:4-5.

In His goodness, God decided to provide a way for us to live with Him forever. Since He, in His holiness, hates sin and will not be near it, he had to provide a way to remove our sin from us. His greatest act of goodness to us was the redemption that could come only through the atonement of His Son and our Savior, Jesus Christ.

PUZZLE

Reread Psalm 36:6. Place the words from the verse in the puzzle below. Each word is only used once.



REMEMBER

The Lord is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made. Psalm 145:9

Think about the abilities God in His goodness has given you. Perhaps you excel in physical abilities, or maybe mental. Maybe you have a strong devotional life, or make friends easily.

April/May Cadet Quest Theme Discussion

Light Over Darkness

The following is an effective way to present the metaphors of light and darkness found in Scripture. You will need one 18" × 11" (50 cm × 30 cm) cross, one medium-size candle which cannot be blown out (you can get this at a magic shop) and one regular candle for each Cadet present. Begin by setting the cross on the table and putting the candle (the one that won't blow out) in front of the cross. Light the candle and turn off all of the lights in the room so that it is completely dark, except for the glow of the candle. As the boys enter the room, give each of them a regular candle and have them sit facing the cross. You may want to have something to protect the boys hands (and the carpet) from any dripping wax from the lit candles.

Explain that light represents good (God) and darkness represents the evil forces of this world (Satan).

Read Genesis 1:3-4.

Light the first person's candle; have the next boy light his candle from his neighbor's lit candle until all the candles are lit. Ask your boys to be careful not to tip their lit candles, even when helping the next boy light his candle to prevent wax on the floor (carpet) or to prevent hot wax from burning one of your Cadets.

Read John 8:12.

Explain that if you put your trust in Jesus, you will walk in the light, but if you put your trust in the world, you will walk in darkness.

Read 1 John 1:6.

Explain how if you say you are a Christian and claim to walk in the light, but you're really not, you're only fooling yourself because God knows your heart.

Have your boys blow out their candles and experience darkness. Ask the question, "Can you find the sin which is darkness in your life?" Think for a minute about the darkness Satan is putting in your pathway. Jesus was tempted by Satan to come into darkness also.

Try to blow the main candle out three times.

Explain how the attempts to extinguish the candle represent the sin Satan put in Jesus' way. Jesus did not fall, and His light kept shining and is still shining today.

Explain that in 1 John 1:5, God is light and in Him there is no darkness.

Ask the boys if they will let Jesus — the eternal Light of the world — re-ignite their faith. (Have the boys come forwards one at a time, relight their candles, and return to their seats.)

Challenge the Cadets by asking them if they will commit themselves to the Light of the world and to the work of sharing the Light with those in darkness.

Read Isaiah 2:5 and end with a prayer.

Lesson 21: God's In Control Of All Creation

Genesis 2:4-9, 15

OBJECTIVES

1. The boys will understand there is not a place they can go to be out of God's control.
2. The boys will develop a feeling of strength and courage when they commit to following in God's ways.

INTRODUCTORY ACTIVITY

Play a game of Simon Says with the boys. The boys must obey all commands you give that begin with the words "Simon says . . ." and they must ignore all commands that do not begin with those words. E.g., If you say "Simon says touch your nose" then the boys must touch their nose. If you say "Jump up and down" the boys must not jump. Any boy doing an action when they should not is out until the next round.

After playing a few rounds, ask the boys what makes it difficult to follow the directions. Real life is the same way. God gives us directions, we know what we are supposed to do, but we still mess up. But, unlike the game, we aren't "out" when we make a mistake.

QUEST INTRODUCTION

Theo loved being out in nature. He liked watching the animals and birds moving about, looking for food. Once he even saw a hawk swoop down and catch a mouse. Theo was planning to spend time during the campout looking both down near the ground and up in the night sky. He had been learning about stars and planets at school.

Theo's cadre had finished setting their camp site up, so the boys were allowed to go exploring in the woods. After running around for a while, Theo sat down at the base of a maple tree. It was there that he noticed all the hard-working ants. There seemed to be hundreds of them. The ants were busy finding supplies to bring to their ant hill; it seemed like they never stopped moving. Theo watched them for a while. He was glad he stopped and noticed them.

Later that evening Theo took time to look at the beautiful night sky. He knew those stars were so very, very far away and that what he saw was just a little part of God's immense universe. He remembered the small, little ants that he watched earlier and thought about how God watched over all of nature – big and small.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What are some of your favorite things to sit and observe in nature? Why?

By this point in the Cadet season the boys should be familiar enough with each other to be able to share. Make sure they answer the "why" portion of the question.

Favorite things could be animate (animals, people) or stationary (mountains, trees, rivers). Whatever interests the boy, have them realize how God is in control, ensuring things continue to function as they should.

2. How can these things show that God is in control?

Whether they like animals who follow God's commands and are able to find food and protect themselves without thinking it through, or plants that grow in the right type of conditions, everything we see operates due to God's control. If we just stop and think about it, it is truly incredible the intricate details all working together just so to allow us to enjoy this world.

3. Our theme verse tells us to not be afraid. Read Luke 12:4-10. Why do we not need to be afraid?

The all-knowing, all-powerful God is on our side. He is looking out for us. He is mindful of us. As small as we may feel in the grand scheme of things, God still considers each and every one of us as vitally important. There is nothing in this world more powerful than the one watching over us.

Young children feel strong when they say, "My dad is stronger than your dad." We can have that same assurance knowing our heavenly Father is bigger than our fears.

The boys may have watched some VeggieTales videos and know the song, "God is Bigger Than the Boogie Man", from the episode, "Where's God When I'm S-Scared?". If you have opportunity, you can find this online and play it for the boys. The lyrics for the refrain of the song reinforce our theme, "God is bigger than the boogiemanager, He's bigger than Godzilla or the monsters on TV. Oh, God is bigger than the boogiemanager, and he's watching out for you and me."

4. Why should we be afraid?

We should be afraid because the God that is control of everything is also our judge and the bringer of punishment. At the same time as numbering the hairs of our head, and protecting us in all situations, He knows every one of our words and deeds. If we don't have someone to take our punishment for us, He will cast us into Hell.

You don't want the boys to say they believe in Jesus out of fear, our relationship with Christ should be based on love, but the boys do need to be made aware of the consequences of not living a life following Jesus. Our motto, Living for Jesus, is not a simple, happy saying, but rather the instructions for the only way to eternal life.

5. How can each of us stay strong and courageous?

The second half of our theme verse gives us the answer. We do not need to be afraid or discouraged, and we can proceed with strength and courage, because the LORD our God will be with us where we go.

6. Read Psalm 8 as a prayer to finish this lesson.

After reading the psalm, challenge the boys to memorize it.

PUZZLE

Do the math to see about God's creation.

R L D U H F E I B O T Y G S O E V N M

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19

F O R E V E R Y
8-2 18-8 3-2 2-5 18-1 10-3 4-3 9-3

H O U S E I S B U I L T
11-6 13-2 9-5 9-5 18-2 11-3 17-3 7-2 2-2 9-1 4-2 7-4

B Y S O M E O N E , B U T
10-1 15-3 17-3 18-3 16-3 13-3 13-3 14-4 5-2 , 1-8 10-6 12-1

G O D I S T H E
14-1 3-7 6-3 10-2 10-4 15-4 8-3 17-1

B U I L D E R O F
11-2 1-3 1-7 5-3 1-2 20-4 5-4 4-6 9-3

E V E R Y T H I N G . HEBREWS 3:4
18-2 15-2 17-1 7-6 10-2 16-5 2-3 9-1 10-8 19-6

REMEMBER

Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise! It has no commander, no overseer or ruler, yet it stores its provisions in summer and gathers its food at harvest. How long will you lie there, you sluggard? When will you get up from your sleep?

Proverbs 6:6-9

Ants don't think about what they do, they just follow God's plan for them. Look for something in your life where you think too much about it and end up not following God's plan. Try to change.

Lesson 22: The Way The Devil Lies to Us

Genesis 3:1-7

OBJECTIVES

1. To familiarize the boys with the four basic lies that Satan has always told.

INTRODUCTORY ACTIVITY

Materials Needed:

- Television
- Radio
- Bible

Choose a volunteer and have him read out loud (but quietly) from the Bible. Turn on the TV and the radio and let the rest of the cadre know that today, they are going to be learning about listening to God. Ask the boys what things make it difficult to hear God. Let them know that the things you've brought in today are in our world. Turn up the volume on the TV and radio, and have some other people talk. In a loud voice say: "Sometimes, it's hard to hear God speaking to us when we read the Bible because we're being distracted by so much other stuff." Ask the boys if they can hear God speaking through the noise. When they say "no," turn off the TV and radio and have the other boys stop talking.

God could shout or use a megaphone to talk to us, but He often chooses to speak quietly through the Bible or in our hearts. Sometimes it is a struggle to hear God through all the other "noise" in our lives.

Talk with the boys about different ways to listen to God and what He's trying to say to us.

QUEST INTRODUCTION

Christianity is built on truth. Satan's religions are built on lies. The four most important lies are found in Genesis 3. Satan told these four lies to Adam and Eve. They believed the lies and were led to sin and rebel against God. Because of their sin, they were cast out of Paradise. Their lives were changed from happiness to misery. When we believe God's truth, we are happy. When we believe the lies of Satan, our lives are filled with misery.

Satan has not changed. He is still telling those same four lies to people. Believing these lies causes people to sin against God. Many people still believe the four lies that Satan told Eve. Their whole religion is built on these lies.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. The first lie is found in Genesis 3:1.
 - What was he trying to do to Eve by asking her this question?
Satan asked, "Did God really say...?" The first lie that Satan uses is that God cannot be trusted. He challenged the truth of what God told Eve. He was trying to get Eve to doubt God.
 - As you grow older you will hear people say, "What is true for me may not be true for you." What is wrong with this statement?
This statement denies the fact that there is one absolute truth laid down by God for everyone. We do not determine the truth. God does. When we set ourselves up to judge God, then we make ourselves greater than God. Here is a marvelous item to emphasize — the Bible is God's Word. It is absolute truth. It can be trusted. It is without error. Whether or not a person believes it, doesn't affect it. It is true for everyone.
2. The second lie is found in Genesis 3:4.
 - What did God tell Adam that is the opposite of this (Genesis 2:15-17)?
God told Adam that if (when) he ate from that one tree, he would die. Satan's lie is an outright denial of God's statement.
 - Some religions teach that when we die, we will be reborn a few days later. This teaching is called reincarnation. Why is this the same as saying we will not die? What does the Bible teach about what happens when we die (Hebrews 9:27)?
Use this question to introduce the boys to the concept of reincarnation. Hindus teach that when a person dies, he is reborn as a new baby ten days later. If he did good in his life, then he will be reborn as a better, more wealthy individual in his next life. If he was a bad sinner, he will be reborn as a much worse person, even an outcast. If he killed an animal such as a chicken, he could be reborn as a chicken.
Hinduism also teaches that we are reborn through reincarnation thousands of times. Those who are good slowly work themselves up the cycle of reincarnation. This is heaven to the Hindu, but it is different from the Christian heaven. Heaven to them merely means that the person merges with the force or god and stops thinking that he is

really someone. Twenty-five percent of the people in the west believe in reincarnation today. This is Satan's way of denying death — for death is never final if we are always reborn!

Hebrews 9:27 teaches us that when we die we will be judged. Our only chance to accept Jesus and receive His gift of eternal life happens in this lifetime.

- How can we live forever (John 3:16)?
We must believe in Jesus to receive everlasting life.

3. The third lie is found in Genesis 3:5. Some religions teach that God is a force which is in us all, and everything in the world is the force. If you are part of the force, then what are you? Why is it so bad to think that you are God?

The third lie Satan tells is that we are God. He tells this lie in many different forms. He told Eve she would be like God, or in other words, equal to God. He tells us today that everything is God or the “force.” The force is in everything and everything is made up of the force, even human beings. Thus, we are God.

The Bible tells us that God is a Person and that He is separate from creation. God is not part of what He made! We are not God and God is not us!

4. The final lie is not something Satan told Eve directly (Genesis 3:6).

- What are the three reasons why Eve ate the fruit of the tree? What was the reason why Eve should not have eaten the fruit of the tree (Genesis 2:16–17)?

The final lie Satan told Eve is that she should make her decisions on the basis of what she felt like doing! Eve ate the fruit because it was good for food, pleasing, and she wanted it. This was her only consideration. She did not stop to ask whether or not God wanted her to eat the fruit. The lie of Satan is that the only thing that matters in life is what I want! Eve should not have eaten of the tree because God forbade her to eat of the fruit of the tree.

- What reason did Jesus give to Satan for not turning stones into bread (Matthew 4:4)? What is most important — to make decisions on the basis of what pleases us or what pleases God?

The temptation of Jesus to turn stones into bread is very similar to Eve's temptation. Jesus had been without food for forty days! What possibly could be wrong with feeding himself? Why couldn't He use His power to change stones into bread? The answer to these questions lies in the fact that He felt He had been commanded by His heavenly Father to go without food. To have fed Himself at this point, as good as that might have tasted, would have been to disobey God. Some people who say they are “spiritual” or “religious” try to get us to forget about God and make decisions on the basis of what we want, such as, “If it feels good ... do it!” Don't fall into that trap!

5. Read Romans 12:1–2. How are we to be transformed? What does “renewing” of the mind mean?

You may wish to start your discussion by defining the word “transformed.” The word means to change, usually for the better. All of us want to change for the better and the way to do this is through controlling what goes into our minds. Our minds are something like stomachs. When we eat bad or rotten food, we get stomach aches, and we can get very sick and even die. The same thing is true for our minds. When we put filth in our minds, it affects our entire person.

6. How can we renew our mind (Psalm 119:15)?

Psalm 119:5 says we should meditate on God's Word. This means that we should fill our minds with Bible verses, Bible thoughts and thoughts generally about God and His goodness. As we fill our minds with these wonderful things Jesus will come into us.

PUZZLE

Unscramble the words to the verse below to see what God thinks about liars.

THE HTE	LORD RODL	DETESTS STESDET	LYING GLYNI	LIPS PSIL	BUT UTB	HE EH
DELIGHTS HEDLSGIT	IN NI	PEOPLE EPPLEO	WHO OWH	ARE REA	TRUSTWORTHY RHYTSORTWUT	

PROVERBS 12:22

REMEMBER

...he (Satan) is a liar and the father of lies. John 8:44

Pay attention to the lies you are told in the media this week. Note how many times you are being lied to about who God is or who controls your life this week.

Lesson 23: How the Devil Fools Us

2 Corinthians 11:13-15

OBJECTIVES

1. To make the cadets sensitive to where a movie or book ultimately will lead us. Even though it may seem good, it can lead us away from Christ into a false religion.
2. To help the cadets examine all of life positively and see beyond the surface “good” to the underlying philosophy and direction.

INTRODUCTORY ACTIVITY

Materials Needed:

- One mousetrap or rat trap
- Cheese or peanut butter
- A toy mouse or rat (attach to a stick to protect your fingers)

Move the mouse closer and closer to the trap while you’re talking to the boys about temptation. Use examples they will understand — having parties when parents are gone, watching “R” movies, cheating at school, lying to parents about little things.

While you’re talking about these temptations, move the mouse closer and closer to the trap, having it cautiously approach the cheese for a small nibble, getting more bold, taking a bigger bite, getting a bit too close — SNAP! — the trap catches the mouse.

The Bible warns us that temptation can lead to us getting dragged away into more temptation until the trap is sprung, the result of which is death. We have to be aware of the temptations that we face daily, whether it is in the books we read or other situations that we face.

QUEST INTRODUCTION

When I fish, I use worms or minnows. The question that the fish must ask (if a fish can ask questions) is not whether the worm or minnow is real, or tastes good. The fish must ask, “Is there a hook in this nice worm that will catch me and kill me?”

Satan works in the same way. He uses “nice” or “good” things to tempt us. The question we must always ask when choosing a website, movie, book, or magazine is not “What’s good in it?” but “What’s bad in it?”

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read 2 Corinthians 11:13-15. What does Paul mean when he says that Satan masquerades as an angel of light? What is a masquerade? When do you masquerade? Why is it wrong to pretend to be something you are not?
You might introduce this question with a discussion of Halloween costumes. Ask the kids which ones they liked best. Talk about how fun it is to pretend, as some do on Halloween when wearing masks. However, it is very dangerous to wear masks in real life. A bank robber wears a mask to disguise himself. He does not want people to know who he really is. When we pretend to be someone we really are not, we wear a “mask.” People can be “two-faced.” They can be very nice when they are with parents, and very bad when they are with friends. Since all of us have this in us, discuss it honestly with the boys. Point out from this question that Satan is the greatest liar of them all. He always pretends to be what he is not. An angel of Satan comes to us, not just in bad magazines and rotten movies. Satan can come to us in movies and books we enjoy, like Harry Potter. Sometimes he is much more dangerous when he appears in a good form and tries to lead us away than when he appears as something evil.
2. Read Matthew 7:21-23. This is a description of people who said they were Christians, but who Jesus did not recognize as true Christians. What three things could these phony Christians do (vs. 22)?
Jesus expresses the same thought that we discussed in question #1. The devil can do many good things. The people who serve him also can do many good things. They “prophesy” (teach); they cast out demons; they even perform miracles.
The point of this passage is that the devil can, and does imitate good. It is good to prophesy and to teach; it is good to drive out demons from people; and it is a good thing to work miracles. The devil and evil people can do many, many good things.

- What did these phony Christians call Jesus? Why were these people false Christians (vs. 21)?
They call him “Lord, Lord,” yet Jesus says that He does not know them. The reason for this is that they are not true Christians.
The boys need to learn to look beyond the deeds of people and see the direction of their lives. Is it toward Christ in love for Him and for others, or is the direction of their lives toward themselves? The entire spiritualism and new age movements are directed toward self.
- What is God’s will (John 3:16, 15:10)?
The will of the Father is the total sacrifice and giving of ourselves to serve God and others. People who are selfish use “goodness” to accomplish their own selfish purposes.
- What warning does Jesus give us in Matthew 7:15?
In this passage, Jesus points out the danger of evil people who outwardly look good. They are like wolves, and of course wolves are some of the most ferocious and deadly animals. They sneak up on us and attack us without our realizing it. They lie in wait for us. They look nice and can seem friendly only to turn on us and destroy us.
Point out that the Christian life is warfare. Read Ephesians 6:12. The devil is our ultimate enemy and he will use any tactic he can to trick us. He will even imitate goodness.
- What is a false prophet? Can you give any examples of modern false prophets? How does Jesus describe them in verse 15 and what does He mean by this? How can we recognize them (vs. 16)?

Examples of false prophets could be Jehovah’s Witnesses (cults), teachers in the church who predict things in the name of the Bible, but they do not come to pass (especially true of end times); spiritualism and new age teachers who state that they seek love, unity, and acceptance of the whole human race, really have a hidden agenda.

Jesus said you’ll recognize them by their “fruit.” By that, He meant that you need to look beyond a person’s single act/deed/claim to see whether the glory is being given to Jesus Christ, or to him or herself, or to another “being” or god. False prophets often add or detract from the message of the Gospel, bringing in their own versions of “truth.” Know God’s Word so you can recognize the truth.

NOTE: Make certain that the boys are not frightened! Fear is of the devil. Love and confidence come from God. Point out to them that Jesus Christ has fully conquered the devil and all his hosts. While we must be aware of the devil we must never be afraid of him. As a matter of fact, to be afraid of the devil is to treat him as more powerful than God!

Y O U A R E T E M P T E D

I N T H E S A M E W A Y

T H A T E V E R Y O N E

E L S E I S T E M P T E D .

B U T G O D C A N B E

T R U S T E D N O T T O

L E T Y O U B E

T E M P T E D T O O M U C H ,

A N D H E W I L L S H O W

Y O U H O W T O E S C A P E

F R O M Y O U R

T E M P T A T I O N S .

PUZZLE

Use the code below to see what the Bible tells us about temptation.

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

REMEMBER

If anyone causes one of these little ones—those who believe in me—to stumble, it would be better for them to have a large millstone hung around their neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea. Matthew 18:6

Pay attention to how the world tries to fool you. Note each of the unrealistic stories of good versus evil you come across this week.

THE WAY TO TRUE 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 [God] 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 1:7 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.... 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 GOD 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 1:7 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?

