

ADDING GOSPEL ELEMENTS TO YOUR WEBELOS PROGRAM

Cub Scouting is an important part of the Primary organization, and as Cub Scout leaders, we should do our part in fulfilling the objectives of Primary, which are to:

1. Teach children that they are children of God and that Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ love them.
2. Help children learn to love Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ.
3. Help children prepare to be baptized, to receive the Holy Ghost, and to keep their baptismal covenants.
4. Help children grow in their understanding of the gospel plan and provide opportunities for them to live gospel principles.
5. Help boys prepare to receive the priesthood and be worthy to use this power to bless and serve others.

By making your den meetings gospel-centered, you will have a much greater influence in the lives of these choice young boys.

The following pages are to be used with the *Webelos Leader Guide* and *Webelos Handbook* and are to help you have a gospel centered den meeting. They are not intended to turn your activity into a Primary or Sunday School class, but they are intended to include gospel-related elements in your den meeting so the boys realize just how much everything they learn, everything they do, and everything they're involved in has gospel application. Many of these stories and gospel-centered additions can be used to enhance your pack meetings as well. Some of the stories/articles are from the Ensign, so you will need to adapt them to make them age appropriate.

Another essential element to your Cub Scout Program is using the *Faith in God* guidebook as you plan, prepare, and help boys fulfill requirements. All this, along with your personal testimony, will enhance your program and greatly increase the boys' chances of remaining true and faithful to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Wherefore, be not weary in well-doing, for ye are laying the foundation of a great work. And out of small things proceedeth that which is great. (D&C 64:33)

AQUANAUT

Swimming and water sports provide the finest exercise a boy can get, and the skill involved will last a lifetime. The boy who is a swimmer has self-confidence.

"... they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint." (Isa. 40:31.)

"If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are." (1 Cor. 3:17.)

Pres. Ezra Taft Benson:

There is a tendency to think of fitness solely in terms of the physical, in terms of bodily strength. But to be truly fit, truly equal to the demands of life, requires much more than bodily strength. It involves the mind and the training of the mind, the emotions and their use and control. Yes, and it involves the soul and the spiritual growth too. And that is why Scouting challenges our youth to be physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight.

It seems to me that the most successful program of complete youth fitness ever known to man was described in 14 words. They are the words of the beloved disciple Luke in the New Testament. He uses just one sentence to cover a period of 18 years—the 18 years in which the Savior of the world, after returning to Nazareth from Jerusalem, prepared himself for his public life: "And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and man." There is the ideal of any program of youth fitness, to

help our youth increase in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and man. It covers everything: physical fitness, mental fitness, social fitness, emotional fitness, spiritual fitness.

Pres. James E. Faust:

Excellence comes into being riding on the confidence one has in self.

Don't forget to look for correlation and application from the *Faith in God* basic requirements (p. 4), activities (pgs. 6-11), and gospel standards (back cover).

ARTIST

The Artist activity badge will help Webelos Scouts better understand how artists work and what they are trying to express through their art. Boys will learn to be more observant as they work with different colors, tints, shades, and shapes. They will be more aware of color and design in nature as they learn about these elements of art. And they will develop creativity as they learn to sculpt and make mobiles and constructions.

Thirteenth Article of Faith:

We believe in being honest, true, chaste, benevolent, virtuous, and in doing good to all men; indeed, we may say that we follow the admonition of Paul—We believe all things, we hope all things, we have endured many things, and hope to be able to endure all things. If there is anything virtuous, lovely, or of good report or praiseworthy, we seek after these things.

Pres. Thomas S. Monson:

The divinely created human body, with its truly marvelous powers and intricate parts, acquired new meaning when the Lord spoke of eyes that were not blinded but did really see, ears that were not stopped but did truly hear, and hearts that were not hardened but did know and feel. In his teachings he referred to the foot, the nose, the face, the side, the back. Significant are those occasions when he spoke of yet another part—even the human hand. Considered by artists and sculptors the most difficult member of the human body to capture on canvas or form in clay, the hand is a wonder to behold. Neither age, color, size, nor shape distorts this miracle of creation.

Pres. Gordon B. Hinckley:

I believe in beauty. The earth in its pristine beauty is an expression of the nature of its Creator. The language of the opening chapter of Genesis intrigues me. It states that “the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep” (Gen. 1:2). I suppose it presented anything but a picture of beauty.

“And God said, Let there be light: and there was light” (Gen 1:3). And so the creation continued until “God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good” (Gen. 1:31).

I interpret this to mean that it was beautiful, for “out of the ground made the Lord God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight” (Gen 2:9).

I believe in the beauty of nature, and I see and believe in the beauty of animals.

I see and admire beauty in people. I am not so concerned with the look that comes of lotions and creams, of pastes and packs as seen in slick-paper magazines and on television. I am not concerned whether the skin be fair or dark. I have seen beautiful people in all of the scores of nations through which I have walked. Little children are beautiful everywhere. And so are the aged, whose wrinkled hands and faces speak of struggle and survival.

I believe in the beauty of personal virtue. There is so much of ugliness in the world in which we live. It is expressed in coarse language, in sloppy dress and manners, in immoral behavior which mocks the beauty of virtue and always leaves a scar. Each of us can and must stand above this sordid and destructive evil, this ugly stain of immorality.

Elder M. Russell Ballard:

I have never painted a picture, composed a sonata, or won an award for acting. But I have been inspired by artists and their art.

Acting President Boyd K. Packer of the Quorum of the Twelve reminded us:

“The reason we have not yet produced a greater heritage in art and literature and music and drama is not ... because we have not had talented people. ... Some have reached great heights in their chosen fields. But few have captured the spirit of the gospel of Jesus Christ and the restoration of it in music, in art, in literature. They have not, therefore, even though they were gifted, made a lasting contribution to the unrolling of the Church and kingdom of God. ... I am reminded of the statement:

“ ‘There are many who struggle and climb and finally reach the top of the ladder, only to find that it is leaning against the wrong wall’ ” (*Ensign*, Aug. 1976, p. 61).

How can you ensure that your creative ladder is leaning against the right wall? Heavenly Father’s purpose for the artist (and there is an artist of some sort in each of us) is to use his or her creativity to help to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of his children. Whether we declare the gospel in quiet, individual ways, or boldly proclaim that Jesus Christ is the Savior, we must strive to understand our role in his purpose.

The artist expresses himself or herself in universal symbols, images, sounds, and feelings. The spiritually successful artist has the unique opportunity to present feelings, opinions, ideas, and perspective of eternity in symbols that can be universally understood. Because all things are spiritual, only the process of obedience, prayer, and inspiration can yield sufficient guidance to make a difference in whatever creative method or opportunity is available to us. Inspired art speaks in the language of eternity, teaching things to the heart that the eyes and ears can never understand.

The word *artist* is not included in holy scripture, but the scriptures include many references to “all manner of workmanship” described as “exceedingly fine” and “curious.” And the Lord uses the word *workmanship* to define the results of his own creation:

“And, behold, thou art my son; wherefore look, and I will show thee the *workmanship* of mine hands; but not all, for my works are without end, and also my words, for they never cease” (Moses 1:4, emphasis added).

Heavenly Father’s purpose for the artist is to inspire—to give us visions of ourselves that we might not otherwise see, to make us better than we would have been. The world *is* better because of the righteous arts and righteous artists in it.

In the quest to achieve greatness in artistic pursuits—whether in painting, dance, music, drama, film, sculpture, or the written word—we should always seek first to achieve the purposes of our Heavenly Father’s plan.

Elder Bruce R. McConkie said the Spirit of Christ is “... medium of intelligence that guides inventors, scientists, *artists, composers, poets, authors, statesmen, philosophers, generals, leaders, and influential [people]* in general, when they set their hands to do that which is for the benefit and blessing of their fellowmen” (*A New Witness for the Articles of Faith*, Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1985, p. 259; emphasis added).

No one can gaze on the art of Michelangelo and not see the hand of God. Michelangelo said, “The true work of art is but a shadow of the divine perfection.”

And Bernard Rands, a Pulitzer Prize–winning composer, said, “The creative act must never become a form of selfish indulgence. ... the commitment to be a composer—or an artist, or a poet—is no less than a commitment to see that which is divine.”

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ATHLETE

The Athlete activity badge work fits in perfectly with Scouting's aim of developing strong bodies. Remember that every boy is expected to do his best, and each boy's best will be different. Let each set his own goal, and then give him encouragement and watch him progress.

Elder Paul H. Dunn:

It would probably not surprise some of you to learn that there are scriptures regarding athletics in all of the standard works of the Church. One of our great teachers, Robert Matthews, brings to our attention some athletic terms that the apostle Paul used in several of his letters, and he prefaces his work with this comment:

"Every two years in Corinth (and also, of course, in other cities) games were held in which all the sports which the Greeks loved, such as footracing, boxing, jumping, wrestling, javelin and discus throwing, and chariot racing, were presented. The prize was a mere wreath, or crown, of pine twigs or ivy leaves, but a winner was welcomed in his native city with great honor. Rigorous training and long practice were required in order for a person to qualify and to participate in these events. A contestant had to go beyond mere amusement and had to discipline himself by constant, severe effort in order to be a winner. In proclaiming the gospel, Paul makes several references to these athletic events. He speaks of boxers, fighters, runners, and the course they run. He speaks of gladiators fighting wild beasts, of a crown for the winners, of goals, of prizes, severe training, proper conditioning, the starter, the judge, and above all the will to win. The early Christian converts were no doubt familiar with these events and games. And, therefore, Paul used the vocabulary of the athlete to urge his listeners to apply the gospel into their lives and particularly to show them the importance of self-discipline and self-denial."

Brother Matthews goes on to say that Paul probably stood in one of those great stadiums of the Greek games of his time and watched the marathon runners as they would go up and lay aside their armor. They used to practice running in their armor, and then they would lay it down for the race. The starter would set them off; they would run 26 1/4 miles, going out into the neighboring village and back on the road, finishing up in the stadium. At the conclusion of the race, the judge would award the prize to the winner. Paul probably watched such a race and saw a great vision of life when he said these words:

"Let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

"Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith." (Heb. 12:1-2.)

Paul perceived in sports one of the greatest things that training can offer: the will to win. He saw those champions crowned in victory, and he saw the wreath that they had received, and he saw that one day he would stand triumphant and receive the greatest crown of all, the crown of eternal life. Paul knew how these great men strove for victory, and he knew of the zeal and vigor with which they went into the race, and he saw that the Christian was likened unto them. The illustrations Paul used are particularly suitable because of their religious significance. Like Jesus, Paul was skilled in the use of vivid illustrations drawn from current events. He pointed out that the price of victory in the gospel sense as well as in the athletic contest is dependent upon sustained effort, self-discipline, and total dedication.

Now let me quote from his letters. This is what Paul wrote to the Corinthians:

"Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? [You see, the Corinthians would understand that.] So run, that ye may obtain." Every athlete, said Paul, exercises self-control in all things. He does it to receive a perishable wreath—just a simple little twig or wreath—but we, an imperishable one. I do not run aimlessly, he went on to say. I do not box as one beating the air, but I pummel my body and subdue it lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified. (See 1 Cor. 9:24-27.)

Now notice this to his friend Timothy: "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day." (2 Tim. 4:7–8.) And then, again to Timothy, Paul made this great admonition on which I would like to make a comment. An athlete is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules. (See 2 Tim. 2:5.) Now, there's a great sermon in a single line. Life is made up of interesting rules and regulations, and one can become the victor only as he competes according to the rules and the regulations of the game.

Elder Robert L. Backman:

Few scenes inspire more awe than the opening ceremonies of the Olympic Games. In a gigantic stadium, thousands of fans cheer as a parade of athletes circles the track. Flags of more than a hundred nations wave. Color and spectacle bedazzle the eye. Hundreds of pigeons are released, symbolizing peace. Cannons roar. Then a runner, bearing a torch initially ignited by the sun's rays in Olympia, Greece, trots into the stadium and sets the Olympic flame ablaze.

Every competitor hopes to win a gold medal. Those who do attain that high honor may notice three words that are inscribed on every Olympic award: "*Citius, Altius, Fortius*," In English that means, "Swifter, Higher, Stronger." Since the Olympics began, that has been their story. The records broken and the gains in human achievement accomplished can be summarized by those three words—three words that denote man's eternal quest for improvement—*Citius, Altius, Fortius*: Swifter, Higher, Stronger.

The performance of [Olympic] athletes really makes the words *Citius, Altius, Fortius* come to life. But what makes a champion? What produces a man who stands on the top step of the victory pedestal after running swifter, soaring higher, or demonstrating more strength than anyone has exhibited before? I believe the same qualities that apply to athletic champions also apply to champions in any endeavor in life.

"Not everyone can be a champ—not everyone can be an athlete," boxer Joe Frazier said. "But everyone can do his best to try to make something of himself."

"Cut out of your lives the things which keep you from doing your best," said Dean Cromwell, an Olympic track coach.

Bill Bradley, an all-American from Princeton and former pro basketball player who is now a U.S. senator, said, "You just have to develop self-discipline, a self-discipline that makes you practice in one spot until you make 25 baskets from that spot, a self-discipline that makes you get up on Sunday morning and go to church instead of sacking in."

Wade Bell, a Mormon half-miler who ran in the Olympics, said, "Track is a proving ground. It's a place where my mind can make my body do something it doesn't want to do; where I can say I did ten 440s today in 60 seconds each; that the last four were so hard I thought my legs would drop off, but that my mind kept me going."

Too few are willing to pay the price to achieve greatness—in anything.

Although most of us will never participate in the Olympic games, the Olympic motto and the Olympic spirit should have deep significance for Latter-day Saints, a people who believe in eternal progression. These ideals should provide us with a motivation to strive constantly to improve our performance in all aspects of our lives—to do our best, lengthen our stride, to truly become champions.

You, my young friends, are sons and daughters of God. If you'll have sufficient faith in yourselves as children of God, and live so that he can bless you and enlarge you, he will do anything you ask him to do in righteousness. If you will give yourself to the effort of making a useful life for yourself and rendering service to your fellowman, the Lord will help you. He knows your potential and can help you develop it until you can race swifter, higher, and stronger than you ever dreamed possible.

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CITIZEN

The Citizen activity badge is important because the work involved relates directly to developing responsible citizens—one of the primary aims of the Boy Scouts of America. This activity badge gives Webelos Scouts great opportunities for getting a feeling for the real meaning of citizenship. As a leader, take advantage of these opportunities to give your boys a meaningful experience. Pay particular attention to doing service to others, which should be a way of life for all Scouts.

And behold, I tell you these things that ye may learn wisdom; that ye may learn that when ye are in the service of your fellow beings ye are only in the service of your God. (Mosiah 2:17)

Pres. Joseph F. Smith:

Let us do right, keep the laws of God, and the laws of man, honor our membership in the kingdom of God, our citizenship ... in the nation of which we are a part, and then God will sustain and preserve us, and we will continue to grow as we have done from the beginning, only our future growth will be accelerated and be far greater than it has been in the past.

A good Latter-day Saint is a good citizen in every way. I desire to say to the young men of our community: be exemplary Latter-day Saints, and let nothing deter you from aspiring to the greatest positions which our nation has to offer. Having secured a place, let your virtue, your integrity, your honesty, your ability, your religious teachings, implanted in your hearts at the knees of your devoted "Mormon" mothers, "so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." [Matthew 5:16.] 11

Elder Dallin H. Oaks:

U.S. citizens have an inspired Constitution, and therefore, what? Does the belief that the U.S. Constitution is divinely inspired affect citizens' behavior toward law and government? It should and it does.

U.S. citizens should follow the First Presidency's counsel to study the Constitution. They should be familiar with its great fundamentals: the separation of powers, the individual guarantees in the Bill of Rights, the structure of federalism, the sovereignty of the people, and the principles of the rule of the law. They should oppose any infringement of these inspired fundamentals.

They should be law-abiding citizens, supportive of national, state, and local governments. The twelfth Article of Faith declares:

"We believe in being subject to kings, presidents, rulers, and magistrates, in obeying, honoring, and sustaining the law."

The Church's official declaration of belief states:

"We believe that governments were instituted of God for the benefit of man; and that he holds men accountable for their acts in relation to them. ...

"We believe that all men are bound to sustain and uphold the respective governments in which they reside." (D&C 134:1, 5.)

Those who enjoy the blessings of liberty under a divinely inspired constitution should promote morality, and they should practice what the Founding Fathers called "civic virtue." In his address on the U.S. Constitution, President Ezra Taft Benson quoted this important observation by John Adams, the second president of the United States:

"Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other."

It is part of our civic duty to be moral in our conduct toward all people. There is no place in responsible citizenship for dishonesty or deceit or for willful law breaking of any kind. We believe with the author of Proverbs that "righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people." (Prov. 14:34.) The personal righteousness of citizens will strengthen a nation more than the force of its arms.

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COMMUNICATOR

Webelos Scouts who earn the Communicator activity badge learn about some of the many ways people communicate. Communication is important in almost everything we do.

Elder Lionel J. Kendrick:

"Christlike communications are expressed in tones of love rather than loudness. They are intended to be helpful rather than hurtful. They tend to bind us together rather than to drive us apart. They tend to build rather than to belittle.

"Christlike communications are expressions of affection and not anger, truth and not fabrication, compassion and not contention, respect and not ridicule, counsel and not criticism, correction and not condemnation. They are spoken with clarity and not with confusion. They may be tender or they may be tough, but they must always be tempered.

"The real challenge that we face in our communications with others is to condition our hearts to have Christlike feelings for all of Heavenly Father's children. When we develop this concern for the condition of others, we then will communicate with them as the Savior would. We will then warm the hearts of those who may be suffering in silence. As we meet people with special needs along life's way, we can then make their journey brighter by the things that we say.

"Christlike communications will help us to develop righteous relationships and ultimately to return to our heavenly home safely. May we treasure the divine gift of communication, and may we use it wisely to build and to assist others on this marvelous journey through mortality"

Elder M. Russell Ballard:

Nothing is more important to the relationship between family members than open, honest communication.

Pres. James E. Faust:

Scientific knowledge, the marvels of communication, and the wonders of modern medicine have come from the Lord to enhance His work throughout the world. ... But Satan, of course, is aware of this great progress in technology and likewise takes advantage of it for his purposes, which are to destroy and despoil. ... For the seeds of faith to sprout in our lives, we must avoid Satan's grasp.

Elder James E. Faust:

The right to enjoy the marvelous gifts of the Holy Ghost is conferred upon every member of the Church soon after baptism. ...

This powerful gift entitles the leaders and all worthy members of the Church to enjoy the gifts and companionship of the Holy Ghost, a member of the Godhead whose function is to inspire, reveal, and teach all things. The result of this [gift] is that since the Church was organized, the leadership and members have enjoyed, and now enjoy, continuous revelation and inspiration directing them in what is right and good. ...

Latter-day Saints, having received the gift of the Holy Ghost by the laying on of hands, are entitled to personal inspiration in the small events of life as well as [in the great ones]. ...

Some guidelines and rules are necessary if one is to [receive] revelation and inspiration. They include (1) to try honestly and sincerely to keep God's commandments, (2) to be spiritually attuned as a receiver of a divine message, (3) to ask God in humble, fervent prayer, and (4) to seek answers with unwavering faith. I testify that inspiration can be the spring for every person's hope, guidance, and strength. ...

How do revelation and inspiration operate? Each person has a built-in “receiving set” which, when fine-tuned, can be a receiver of divine communication. ...

One does not necessarily hear an audible voice. ... “I will tell you in your mind and in your heart, by the Holy Ghost, which shall come upon you and which shall dwell in your heart,” says the Lord (D&C 8:2).

How was the voice of the Lord heard by Elijah the Tishbite? It was not the “strong wind [which] rent the mountains, and brake in pieces the rocks,” nor “after the wind an earthquake,” nor “after the earthquake a fire.” It was “a still small voice” (see 1 Kgs. 19:11–12).

The inner voice of the Spirit [can] whisper through and pierce all things (see D&C 85:6). ...

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CRAFTSMAN

Helping Webelos Scouts make and do things that are within their abilities and that interest them is a reward in itself. In working on the activity badge, boys will gain confidence in themselves, develop their talents, and perhaps uncover an ability that will lead to a hobby in one of these areas.

Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, the brother of James, and Joses, and of Juda, and Simon? (Mark 6:3)

Eugene England writes of Pres. Brigham Young:

In 1817, [Brigham] began to be exposed to freedoms and opportunities that released and satisfied deep energies and needs in him. He was apprenticed out to a Mr. John C. Jeffries, a chairmaker and housepainter in the town of Auburn on Owasco Lake. By the time he was 18, Brigham was skilled and mature enough to go into business for himself, and he set up a small woodworking shop in nearby Aurelius, a tiny village noted mainly for its three “taverns” (really inns that provided food and board for the westering emigrants and a gathering place for the local frontiersmen).

At Aurelius in 1823... Brigham and [his wife] Miriam established their home at Haydenville near Auburn, and Brigham developed into a fine craftsman. According to Mary Van Sickle Wait, a nonmember who wrote an appreciative history of Brigham's early years as a craftsman, he had even earlier “established himself as the skilled artisan who is [still famous in Western New York] for the beauty of his stairwell decorations, fanlight doorways, door frames, stair rails, louvered attic windows and, above all—fireplace mantels.” Mrs. Wait said she derived “keen pleasure” from living much of her life in one of the homes still standing that Brigham worked on during this period; she described it as “distinguished by its fan-shaped doorway, ... a small but perfect example of Colonial architecture” that has been praised by visitors and regarded with pride by the community for over 150 years. Mrs. Wait also described in detail other houses and particular articles of furniture made by Brigham Young that are still preserved, such as a cherry desk, “plain and sturdy, rather chaste in design, and the wood ... beautiful.”

Simple beauty, sturdiness, usefulness—it would be hard to find better criteria for making something. But what is perhaps most interesting is the way Brigham gradually transferred these ideals from cabinets to people, and his craftsman's integrity into a total perspective of life's meaning, as he found the religious conviction that unified the various elements of his life. Not long before he died, one of Brigham's friends from this early period, Captain George Hickox, wrote him, recalling how kind Brigham had been to him when he was ill almost 50 years before and inviting Brigham to the centennial supper of his town, where “the most interesting [item] will be one of the chairs you made for me. ...”Brigham replied:

“I have no doubt that many other pieces of furniture and other specimens of my handiwork can be found scattered about your section of the country, for I have believed all my life that that which was worth doing was worth doing well, and have considered it as much a part of my religion to do honest, reliable work, such as would endure, for those who employ me, as to attend to the service of God's worship on the Sabbath.”

Brigham's daily work gradually changed after he became a Mormon, but even as he came to labor with words and organizations and souls rather than glass and paint and wood, the emphasis on honest, reliable, and enduring work remained. The goal of helping shape a thing, without violating the integrity (or agency) of the material, into something more useful, strong, and beautiful endured and intensified; and he never lost his love of seeing good handwork, or of doing some himself, such as he did on the St. George Temple even when he was an old man and a busy prophet.

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ENGINEER

The Engineer activity badge involves projects that will give Webelos Scouts some insight into engineering. With careful planning, den meetings on the Engineer activity badge can heighten each boy's concept of manufactured objects, from mere acceptance or a lack of interest to excitement and wonder.

Elder M. Russell Ballard:

In the book of Moses we read, "And behold, all things have their likeness, and all things are created and made to bear record of me, both things which are temporal, and things which are spiritual; things which are in the heavens above, and things which are on the earth, and things which are in the earth, and things which are under the earth, both above and beneath: all things bear record of me" (Moses 6:63).

Truly, the heavens and the earth and all things in them evidence the handiwork of God, their Creator. In the Book of Mormon we learn of Korihor, an anti-Christ who was brought to the Prophet Alma. He asked for a sign of God's existence before he would believe. "But Alma said unto him: Thou hast had signs enough; will ye tempt your God? Will ye say, Show unto me a sign, when ye have the testimony of all these thy brethren, and also all the holy prophets? The scriptures are laid before thee, yea, and all things denote there is a God; yea, even the earth, and all things that are upon the face of it, yea, and its motion, yea, and also all the planets which move in their regular form do witness that there is a Supreme Creator" (Alma 30:44). These eternal evidences continue to testify to us today.

Astronauts viewing the earth from space have stated how incredibly beautiful it is and how alive it appears. United States Senator Jake Garn wrote of his experience in space: "It is impossible for me to describe the beauty of the earth. It is a breathtaking, awe-inspiring, spiritual experience to view the earth from space while traveling at twenty-five times the speed of sound. I could also look into the blackness of the vacuum of space and see billions of stars and galaxies millions of light-years away. The universe is so vast as to be impossible to comprehend. But I did comprehend the hand of God in all things. I felt His presence throughout my seven days in space. I know that God created this earth and the universe. I know that we are His children wherever we live on the earth, without regard to our nationality or the color of our skin. Most important, I know that God lives and is the Creator of us all" (letter to M. Russell Ballard, March 3, 1988).

Marvin K Gardner writes of Elder Richard G. Scott:

Born on 7 November 1928 in Pocatello, Idaho, and reared in Washington, D.C., Richard developed an early interest in science. His parents, Kenneth Leroy and Mary Eliza Whittle Scott, encouraged him and his brothers to explore—to tinker with mechanical things, discover how they worked, build them, repair them. They even trusted the boys to fix the family car. He smiles: "One time, as a joke, we put a caboose whistle on the exhaust pipe!"

...he attended George Washington University, studying mechanical engineering and playing clarinet and saxophone in a jazz band. Soon after graduation, he left for a mission to Uruguay

Before Richard had left for his mission, a professor had tried to dissuade him from going; he would be throwing away a promising career, the man said. A few weeks after returning from Uruguay, Richard was invited to be interviewed by Captain (later Admiral) Hyman G. Rickover for a job on a top-secret military project involving nuclear energy.

The interview seemed to go miserably. In response to one question, Richard mentioned his mission. "What mission?" Captain Rickover demanded. "And what do I care about your mission?"

Richard reacted to that, because his mission had been such a precious time in his life. "Everything I really appreciate began to mature in the mission field," he says. "So I decided to respond vigorously to every question."

Then the captain asked, "What was the last book you read?"

"The Book of Mormon," he responded. And so it went through the rest of the interview.

With all hopes extinguished, Richard got up to leave. "Just a minute," said the captain. "I've been testing you to see if you could stand up for what you believe. This is not going to be an easy project. We need people who can work with confidence." Richard got the job working on the design of the nuclear reactor for the *Nautilus*, the first nuclear-powered submarine.

Later, while checking personnel records, he discovered the name of the professor who had urged him not to go on a mission; the man was now working under Richard's direction, about three levels down.

Brother Scott worked for Admiral Rickover for twelve years. In 1955 he completed the equivalent of a doctorate in nuclear engineering at the Oak Ridge School of Reactor Technology in Tennessee. (Because of the classified nature of the work, a university degree couldn't be given.) He also helped in the development of the first commercial land-based nuclear power plant.

Don't forget to look for correlation and application from the *Faith in God* basic requirements (p. 4), activities (pgs. 6-11), and gospel standards (back cover).

FAMILY MEMBER

The Family Member activity badge will help promote better understanding within families. It provides opportunities for the Webelos Scout's family to spend time together in worthwhile activities.

Children obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honor thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth. (Ephesians 6: 1-3)

And he commanded them that there should be no contention one with another, but that they should look forward with one eye, having one faith and one baptism, having their hearts knit together in unity and in love one towards another. (Mosiah 18:21)

Pres. James E. Faust:

All family relationships should be honored including those to our kindred dead. Love, service, and help should flow between brothers and sisters and the extended family.

The Family: A Proclamation to the World:

Happiness in family life is most likely to be achieved when founded upon the teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ. Successful marriages and families are established and maintained on principles of faith, prayer, repentance, forgiveness, respect, love, compassion, work, and wholesome recreational activities.

Elder Russell M. Nelson:

Our family is the focus of our greatest work and joy in this life; so will it be throughout all eternity, when we can "inherit thrones, kingdoms, principalities, ... powers, dominions, ... exaltation and glory.

Pres. Spencer W. Kimball:

We believe in work for ourselves and for our children. We should train our children to work, and they should learn to share the responsibilities of the home and the yard. They should be given assignments to keep the house neat and clean, even though it be humble. Children may be given assignments also to take care of the garden, and this will be far better than to have them for long hours sitting at a television.

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FITNESS

Good health can mean the difference between just merely living or really enjoying life. When we feel well and are physically and mentally fit, we live with enthusiasm and interest. Fitness is never just physical; the mind and body work together.

Pres. Gordon B. Hinckley:

Is observance of the Word of Wisdom necessary? The Brethren have long felt that it certainly must be. Observance of the Word of Wisdom is concerned with the care of one's body, which, the Lord has assured, is of itself a temple, a tabernacle of the spirit. He has said, "Yea, man is the tabernacle of God, even temples; and whatsoever temple is defiled, God shall destroy that temple" (D&C 93:35).

The body is sacred. It was created in the image of God. It is something to be cared for and used for good purposes. It ought to be taken care of, and this thing which we call the Word of Wisdom, which is a code of health, is most helpful in doing that.

The Lord would have you stay away from drugs, my young brethren and sisters. You and I cannot afford, under any circumstances, to indulge in the use of illegal drugs. They will absolutely destroy you. They will take away your self-control. They will cause you to do dishonest things to get money to buy them. Stay away from those things proscribed in the Word of Wisdom—no alcohol, no beer, no tobacco. What a blessing! What a blessing is the Word of Wisdom, that the Lord would set before His Church a pattern of living which would bless our lives.

Pres. N. Eldon Tanner:

Consider, if you will, the spiritual, moral, physical, and economic problems caused by the use of tea, coffee, tobacco, and alcohol. Evidence is continually surfacing to show the harmful effects of these substances. I need not go into detail about how much money we spend on welfare services, lawsuits, and other legal fees, as well as on vandalism, cigarette-related fires, and restoration of public and private property caused by the use of drugs, tobacco, and alcohol.

How fortunate we are to belong to a church with a prophet to guide us who receives direction from our Heavenly Father! Throughout the ages God has revealed his will to man through his prophets, and when the people have followed the prophet, they have been blessed and prospered. We should be grateful for the principle of revelation and accept the word of the Lord without having to wait for science to prove its truthfulness.

Pres. Gordon B. Hinckley:

Some have even used as an alibi the fact that drugs are not mentioned in the Word of Wisdom. What a miserable excuse. There is likewise no mention of the hazards of diving into an empty swimming pool or of jumping from an overpass onto the freeway. But who doubts the deadly consequences of such? Common sense would dictate against such behavior.

Regardless of the Word of Wisdom, there is a divinely given reason for avoiding these illegal substances.

I am convinced that their use is an affront to God. He is our Creator. We are made in His image. These remarkable and wonderful bodies are His handiwork. Does anyone think that he can deliberately injure and impair his body without affronting its Creator? We are told again and again that the body is the tabernacle of the spirit. We are told that it is a temple, holy to the Lord. In a time of terrible conflict between the Nephites and the Lamanites, we are told that the Nephites, who had been strong, became "weak, like unto their brethren, the Lamanites, and that the Spirit of the Lord did no more preserve them; yea, it had withdrawn from them because the Spirit of the Lord doth not dwell in unholy temples" (Hel. 4:24).

Alma taught the people of Zarahemla: The Lord “doth not dwell in unholy temples; neither can filthiness or anything which is unclean be received into the kingdom of God” (Alma 7:21). Can anyone doubt that the taking of these mind- and body-destroying drugs is an act of unholiness? Does anyone think that the Spirit of God can dwell in the temple of the body when that body is defiled by these destructive elements? If any of you are tampering with these things, resolve forthwith, and with the strongest determination of which you are capable, that you will never touch them again.

Pres. Boyd K. Packer:

I found in the Word of Wisdom a principle with a promise. The principle: Care for your body; avoid habit-forming stimulants, tea, coffee, tobacco, liquor, and drugs (see D&C 89:3–9). Such addictive things do little more than relieve a craving which they caused in the first place.

The promise: Those who obey will receive better health (see D&C 89:18) and “great treasures of knowledge, even hidden treasures” (D&C 89:19).

Don’t forget to look for correlation and application from the *Faith in God* basic requirements (p. 4), activities (pgs. 6-11), and gospel standards (back cover).

FORESTER

Webelos Scouts working on the Forester activity badge will learn how to recognize species of trees by their shape, foliage, bark, and type of wood. They’ll develop a better appreciation of the work of foresters.

Knowest thou the meaning of the tree which thy father saw? And I answered him, saying: Yea, it is the love of God, which sheddeth itself abroad in the hearts of the children of men; wherefore, it is the most desirable above all things. (1 Nephi 11:21-22)

Now, we will compare the word unto a seed. Now, if ye give place, that a seed may be planted in your heart, behold, if it be a true seed, or a good seed, if ye do not cast it out by your unbelief, that ye will resist the Spirit of the Lord, behold, it will begin to swell within your breasts; and when you feel these swelling motions, ye will begin to say within yourselves—It must needs be that this is a good seed, or that the word is good, for it beginneth to enlarge my soul; yea, it beginneth to enlighten my understanding, yea, it beginneth to be delicious to me.

And behold, as the tree beginneth to grow, ye will say: Let us nourish it with great care, that it may get root, that it may grow up, and bring forth fruit unto us. And now behold, if ye nourish it with much care it will get root, and grow up, and bring forth fruit.

But if ye will nourish the word, yea, nourish the tree as it beginneth to grow, by your faith with great diligence, and with patience, looking forward to the fruit thereof, it shall take root; and behold it shall be a tree springing up unto everlasting life. (Alma 32: 28, 37, 41)

Sandra L. Keith, “A Tree Named Joshua,” *Friend*, Jul 1981:

Many people know the names of trees such as elm, maple, cedar, walnut, pine, or sycamore. But how many of them have heard of a Joshua tree or know that such trees exist?

It is believed that the Joshua tree was first named by early Mormon pioneers who thought the many outstretched arms or branches of the plant resembled Joshua praying for victory at Jericho. So they called it the Joshua tree or praying plant. However, the Joshua tree is actually a member of the lily family and its scientific name is *Yucca brevifolia*.

The Joshua tree is found in only a few isolated areas of the southwestern United States. Its crazy shape dots the high deserts of Nevada, Utah, and Arizona, growing mostly above the 3,000-foot level where the average rainfall is between eight and ten inches a year. But it is within a small section of southern California in a place where the Colorado River and Mojave Desert quietly slip together that the tree reaches its highest stature and greatest beauty. This is truly Joshua tree country. Here, within the higher elevations of the 870 square miles known as Joshua Tree National Monument, the tree flourishes.

In the warm spring months of March and April plants in every direction begin to liven up. They put forth shiny green leaves and jewel-colored flowers with petals as smooth and fragile as butterfly wings. Yet it is the Joshua tree that dominates the landscape and reigns as king. Reaching as high as forty feet, the tree's shaggy-armed branches boast a new sight. Huge green and white flowers burst forth and sit like heavy crowns upon the jagged clusters of dark green leaves.

It is fitting that the Joshua tree be allowed this kingly time for boasting, for it is one of the oldest living things on the desert. Yet the exact age of these large trees remains a secret, for the Joshua tree does not form annual growth rings.

Surprisingly, the soft, cork-like bark hides a hollow trunk that ranges from two to five feet in diameter at its base. The tree's rough gray trunk sprouts many long, slim branches or arms. Sometimes a branch is shaped like a pencil with just one group of short leaves upon its tip. Other times a branch will divide into a wishbone-like tip, and each tip holds its own dense cluster of sharp, dagger-shaped leaves.

While other plants bloom each spring, the Joshua tree does not. The time between flowering is probably determined by temperature and rainfall. But its big, pineapple-shaped flowers are important, because they are one of the reasons for the strange shape of the Joshua tree.

The Joshua or yucca tree will not form those many arm-like branches unless the leaf-making bud at the end of a branch is killed, which happens when a branch begins to flower. Another reason for the unusual twisted shape of the Joshua tree is the activity of the yucca boring beetle larvae that live and feed on the ends of the branches, where they destroy the leaf-making buds.

The Joshua tree is useful to man as well as beast. The smallest of the tree's roots are red and were used by Indians for weaving colorful designs into their baskets. The wood from the yucca is soft and easily shaped. It is used to make a special kind of surgeon's splint. It is also cut into thin sheets of veneer from which unusual trinkets are made.

However, it is really the desert birds, mammals, and insects who benefit most from the Joshua tree. The little yucca night lizard relies completely upon this plant and could not survive without it. Living either just under the bark of a growing tree or in the dark hollows of a fallen rotting trunk, this little reptile dines on the insect larvae, ants, and termites it finds there.

A small animal known as the wood rat or pack rat uses the sharp spines or leaves of the Joshua tree when building its nest. It scampers up a living tree and, with great determination, chews off one of the leaves. Hurrying back to its hideaway, the rat will use that pointed leaf end to form a sort of barbed wire fencing to keep invaders away from its underground headquarters.

At least twenty-five different birds are known to make their nests in the Joshua tree. Two of these, the cactus woodpecker and the red-shafted flicker, make a nest by digging a hole in a branch or the trunk of the Joshua tree. Sooner or later they will leave this home and a new tenant will move in—a western bluebird, a Pasadena screech owl, an ash-throated flycatcher, or some other kind of bird. In any event, the nest will be used for many years.

The Joshua tree forests continue to thrive. New plants still sprout as the seeds are carried off and dropped by some little desert rodent; or perhaps they are blown away upon the hot, dry winds. The larger trees produce not only seeds but peculiar underground runner-stems that eventually push upward and break through the sunbaked ground, and a new Joshua tree begins to grow.

Don't forget to look for correlation and application from the *Faith in God* basic requirements (p. 4), activities (pgs. 6-11), and gospel standards (back cover).

GEOLOGIST

In earning the Geologist activity badge, boys will also learn how the earth was formed, how rocks and minerals are used, and how a geologist works.

In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness *was* upon the face of the deep. And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry *land* appear: and it was so. And God called the dry *land Earth*; and the gathering together of the waters called he Seas: and God saw that *it was good*. (Genesis 1: 1,2,9,10)

Elder Bruce R. McConkie:

Christ is the Creator and Redeemer of worlds so numerous that they cannot be numbered by man. As to his infinite and eternal creative and redemptive enterprises the divine word attests: “And worlds without number have I created,” saith the Father, “and I also created them for mine own purpose; and by the Son I created them, which is mine Only Begotten. ... But only an account of this earth, and the inhabitants thereof, give I unto you.” As to all of the other worlds of the Lord’s creating we know only that it is his work and his glory “to bring to pass”—through the Redeemer—“the immortality and eternal life” of all their inhabitants. (Moses 1:33, 35, 39.)

Don’t forget to look for correlation and application from the *Faith in God* basic requirements (p. 4), activities (pgs. 6-11), and gospel standards (back cover).

HANDYMAN

Webelos Scouts are old enough to provide a lot of help around the house. In addition to doing some of the more usual household tasks, such as keeping their rooms clean and taking out trash, they can help adult family members in many other ways. The Handyman activity badge provides the opportunity for Webelos Scouts to learn new skills so that they can be more helpful around their homes.

As they earn this badge, Webelos Scouts will develop confidence in their ability to clean things, make minor repairs, and take care of a house and lawn.

Organize yourselves; prepare every needful thing; and establish a house, even a house of prayer, a house of fasting, a house of faith, a house of learning, a house of glory, a house of order, a house of God.” (D&C 88:119.)

Pres. Spencer W. Kimball:

We believe in work for ourselves and for our children. We should train our children to work, and they should learn to share the responsibilities of the home and the yard. They should be given assignments to keep the house neat and clean, even though it be humble. Children may be given assignments also to take care of the garden, and this will be far better than to have them for long hours sitting at a television.

“Making Your Home a Service Station,” *Ensign*, Dec 1987:

Nearly every minute of our lives, we are either serving others or are being served by them.

AS A CHILD, you can serve your parents and brother(s)/sister(s) by—

- being responsible enough with your own tasks and possessions that you can be free to *offer* help;
- not complaining when asked to contribute, so family members will feel like asking you again;
- being alert enough that you can notice things on your own that need to be done and do them;
- loving the members of your family.

When a child is busy serving and helping, he is less inclined to be self-centered. He automatically learns to think more of others and less of himself. In fact, if we “teach [our children] to love one another, and to serve one another,” service can be an antidote for fighting and quarreling. (See Mosiah 4:14–15.) This is a very valuable aspect of service, and one that the Lord intended when he taught that we must learn to lose ourselves in serving one another. “When we are engaged in the service of our fellowmen, not only do our deeds assist them, but we put our own problems in a fresher perspective ... there is less time to be concerned with ourselves.” (Spencer W. Kimball, *Ensign*, Dec. 1974, p. 2.)

Every day there are countless small acts of service a child can perform, such as helping his mother in the kitchen, emptying the wastebaskets, running errands, caring for a younger brother or sister, tidying his room, or helping his father in the yard or garden.

Christlike service not only unites and strengthens the family, it increases our ability to love. Such love benefits both those we serve and ourselves. We become less selfish. As Bishop H. Burke Peterson put it: "The Master gave the commandment to all—not to a few in one land or a handful in another, not just to a family here or there, but to all his children, everywhere. Express love now! Show it now."

Don't forget to look for correlation and application from the *Faith in God* basic requirements (p. 4), activities (pgs. 6-11), and gospel standards (back cover).

NATURALIST

The Naturalist activity badge will help Webelos Scouts increase their awareness of, and gain an appreciation for, the natural world around them.

And God said, Let the water bring forth abundantly the moving creature that hath life, and fowl *that* may fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven. And God created great whales, and every living creature that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind, and every winged fowl after his kind: and God saw that *it was* good. And God blessed them, saying, Be fruitful, and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let fowl multiply in the earth. And the evening and the morning were the fifth day. And God said, Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind: and it was so. And God made the beast of the earth after his kind, and cattle after their kind, and every thing that creepeth upon the earth after his kind: and God saw that *it was* good. (Genesis 1:20-25)

And behold, all things have their likeness, and all things are created and made to bear record of me, both things which are temporal, and things which are spiritual; things which are in the heavens above, and things which are on the earth, and things which are in the earth, and things which are under the earth, both above and beneath: all things bear record of me" (Moses 6:63)

Elder M. Russell Ballard:

My family and I had a simple but impressive experience with one of God's creations. I gave my wife, Barbara, a dozen roses as a valentine. They were a delicate shade of peach in color and had a rich scent. Barbara put them in a vase and placed them on the table in our family room. As the days passed, the family watched the blossoms unfold from buds to full flower.

As I watched this miracle, I became curious about roses. I was amazed to learn from a botanist friend that there are thousands of different varieties of roses. Inside each rose is a giant storehouse of genetic coding that develops a seed or a slip into roots, stems, thorns, leaves, colors, and blooms.

Each rose is a compact chemical-processing factory. Using sunlight, the green leaves take carbon dioxide from the air and replace it with oxygen, which we breathe. When other chemicals within the plant react with sunlight, it produces starch that becomes food. As you know, this process is called photosynthesis, and without it the earth's atmosphere would soon be devoid of oxygen, and most living things would disappear from the earth.

This experience led me to consider the myriad forms of plant and animal life that thrive in astounding balance upon the earth. My esteem for our little roses took on an element of wonder and reverence. I pondered the power of the Creative Genius who lovingly provided such marvels for His children. I thought then how important it is for every human soul to see and appreciate the glory and grandeur of God in everything about us.

Elder Neal A. Maxwell:

Indeed, *appreciation* for the world (and all in it) which God has given us is but a prelude to *adoration* of the God who has so gloriously displayed His creativity for us.

"Q&A: Questions and Answers," *New Era*, Nov 1996:

Sometimes it can be depressing just hearing about all the bad things happening in the world. And some people seem to talk only about the negative things going on in their lives.

The trouble is that feeling negative and concentrating on your problems hardly ever make things better. Some people have a gift for being happy. And others just have to learn how. It's worth the effort, because being happy is just about everyone's goal.

The advantage of learning to see the good things around you is that it's more fun to be around a happy, optimistic person. Notice how those who have a good attitude and look at the bright side seem to draw friends to them.

So how do we go about learning to be happy? Get out in nature. Just seeing the beauties of the world can make you happy. Practice seeing. In other words, look carefully at the world from the smallest insects to the mountains or ocean. Then realize that our Heavenly Father cares a great deal about each of his creations, including you, but he gave you the additional gift of being aware and able to appreciate the world.

Don't forget to look for correlation and application from the *Faith in God* basic requirements (p. 4), activities (pgs. 6-11), and gospel standards (back cover).

OUTDOORSMAN

In earning the Outdoorsman badge, a Webelos Scout will be introduced to outdoor living and get a preview of the fun he'll have in the troop.

Vicki Blum, "Building Houses," *Friend*, Jan 1998:

I loved Brother Hanson. He had a story for every situation, and one of his favorite things to say was, "There is a lesson to be learned here." Then he asked you what you thought the lesson was, and if you didn't know or if your answer wasn't what he had in mind, he'd let you know what it was.

One time he had all the Boy Scouts helping him build a garage. It was a gray, bitter kind of day, and the wind howled around the corners of the building and practically knocked us flat. It didn't seem to bother Brother Hanson much, though. He was bundled up in a huge goose-down jacket that made him look like a polar bear.

After a while we started to complain. Bryan even suggested that in this wind the garage might easily blow over and that perhaps we should leave the work for another day.

That's when Brother Hanson gathered us all together on one side of the building, where we were partly protected from the gale. He patted the concrete foundation. "Feel this."

We all felt it.

Then he patted the ground underneath. We felt that too. It was, being late autumn and the soil being rather clayish, about as bendable as a steel beam. "There's a lesson to be learned here," he announced.

We all groaned.

"In the scriptures—" he began.

"In the Book of Mormon?" asked Bryan, who was always eager to know what came from where.

Brother Hanson nodded. "In the Book of Mormon as well as in the Bible, it says that if you build your house upon a rock, which is the gospel, and the rain descends and the floods come and the winds blow, which are the trials and temptations of life, your house will not fall. That's a good lesson, don't you think?"

We all agreed that it was.

Then, just to emphasize his point, he sent us all back to work in the wind.

It was nearly three months later that Brother Hanson took us on a winter Scout camp. The entire object of the outing was for us to learn how to build a fire so we could cook and keep warm in sub-zero temperatures. We hiked for what seemed like miles, and even though Brother Hanson was close to seventy years old, we had a difficult time keeping up. Finally he brought us to a place where there was a frozen pond beside a clear spot in the trees, and there he turned us loose to build our fires.

It didn't take long for us to discover that the frozen pond was much easier to clear off than the lumpy rock-strewn ground. In no time at all most of our fires were constructed on the thick, just-offshore ice, ready to go.

That's when I noticed Brother Hanson. He was going to all the extra effort of clearing snow down to the bare dirt before laying out his wood. I stood and watched him for a minute, knowing him well enough to realize that he never did anything without a reason. Then I moved my pile of sticks over beside his and proceeded to do exactly as he was doing.

A while later, Brother Hanson and I were enjoying roasted hot dogs and warming our cold toes next to the crackling flames, while the rest of the troop ran frantically in circles as their fires flickered to death in pools of puddling ice.

"There's a lesson to be learned here," Brother Hanson stated matter-of-factly.

The boys practically howled.

Brother Hanson leaned back on his log and stretched his huge feet out lazily in front of him.

"You tell me what the lesson is," he said, nodding at Bryan.

"Fire melts ice," Bryan declared wisely.

Brother Hanson glanced toward Jonathan.

"That you should always build your fire on solid ground," Jonathan concluded.

Brother Hanson looked directly at me. "Philip, what do you think?"

I quoted his own words, as if reading from a book, " 'If you build your house upon a rock, which is the gospel, and the rain descends and the floods come and the winds blow, which are the trials and temptations of life, your house will not fall.' "

What followed was a moment of surprised silence as Brother Hanson stared at me. Then, when I started to fear that he was angry and that I shouldn't have been quite so cocky, I heard a deep rumbling sound, which I realized was actually Brother Hanson chuckling.

The chuckles soon turned into outright guffaws that made his face go red and caused his breath to come in ragged gasps. Pretty soon all the rest of us were laughing right along with him. After a few minutes he stopped, pulled himself up straight on his log, and wiped his face with his sleeve. "That's what I like to see—a boy who learns his lesson right the first time!"

Don't forget to look for correlation and application from the *Faith in God* basic requirements (p. 4), activities (pgs. 6-11), and gospel standards (back cover).

READYMAN

In keeping with the Boy Scout motto "Be Prepared," Webelos Scouts begin learning how to be prepared for emergency situations.. Working on these requirements will help boys understand what types of situations typically cause accidents and will help them develop attitudes and skills that will protect them and aid them in protecting others.

Be thou prepared, and prepare for thyself, thou, and all thy company that are assembled unto thee, and be thou a guard unto them. (Ezekiel 38:7)

...if ye are prepared ye shall not fear. (D&C 38:30)

And Jesus answering said, A certain *man* went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, which stripped him of his raiment, and wounded *him*, and departed, leaving *him* half dead. And by chance there came down a certain priest that way: and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. And likewise a Levite, when he was at the place, came and looked *on him*, and passed by on the other side. But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion *on him*, And went to *him*, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. And on the morrow when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave *them* to the host and said unto him, Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee. Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour unto him that fell among the thieves? And he said, He that shewed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do thou likewise. (Luke 10:29-37)

Pres. Gordon B. Hinckley:

Our safety lies in the virtue of our lives. Our strength lies in our righteousness.

Pres. Gordon B. Hinckley:

... the time has come to get our houses in order. . . . There is a portent of stormy weather ahead to which we had better give heed.

Pres. Thomas S. Monson:

Each time we watch the news on television or pick up a newspaper, we learn of terrible human suffering as a result of tornadoes, floods, fires, drought, hurricanes, earthquakes, conflicts of war. I ask the question: Do we have a responsibility to do something about such suffering?

Long years ago a similar question was posed and preserved in holy writ, even the Holy Bible, and I quote from the book of Genesis:

“And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him.

“And the Lord said unto Cain, Where is Abel thy brother? And he said, I know not: Am I my brother’s keeper?” The answer to that vital question is: Yes, *we are our brothers’ keepers*.

Clyde J. Williams:

In every generation we must take the prophets’ counsel and apply it in our lives. There is safety and security in following the prophets, particularly those of our own day.

Don’t forget to look for correlation and application from the *Faith in God* basic requirements (p. 4), activities (pgs. 6-11), and gospel standards (back cover).

SCHOLAR

The Scholar activity badge is an easy one for boys to earn if they are doing satisfactory work in school. The Webelos den leader may influence a boy’s opinion of school by showing his own positive attitude toward this badge, and by voicing his or her feelings on the importance of education and the school system.

The heart of the prudent getteth knowledge; and the ear of the wise seeketh knowledge. (Proverbs 18:15)

If thou shalt ask, thou shalt receive revelation upon revelation, knowledge upon knowledge, that thou mayest know the mysteries and peaceable things—that which bringeth joy, that which bringeth life eternal. (Doctrine and Covenants 42:61)

Whatever principle of intelligence we attain unto in this life, it will rise with us in the resurrection. And if a person gains more knowledge and intelligence in this life through his diligence and obedience than another, he will have so much the advantage in the world to come. (D&C 130: 18-19)

The glory of God is intelligence, or, in other words, light and truth. (D&C 93:36)

Elder Russell M. Nelson:

Our Creator expects His children everywhere to educate themselves. He issued a commandment: “Seek ye diligently and teach one another words of wisdom; yea, seek ye out of the best books words of wisdom; seek learning, even by study and also by faith.” (D&C 88:118.) And He assures us that knowledge acquired here will be ours forever.

Pres. Gordon B. Hinckley:

Be smart. You need all the education you can get.

Pres. David O. McKay:

True education consists not merely in the acquiring of a few facts of science, history, literature or art, but in the development of character. ... True education trains in self-denial and self-mastery. True education regulates the temper, subdues passion and makes obedience to social laws and moral order a guiding principle of life.

Don't forget to look for correlation and application from the *Faith in God* basic requirements (p. 4), activities (pgs. 6-11), and gospel standards (back cover).

SCIENTIST

The Scientist activity badge offers boys many opportunities for fun and learning. Learning scientific methods helps a boy develop his power of thinking and deduction.

But behold, if ye will awake and arouse your faculties, even to an **experiment** upon my words, and exercise a particle of faith, yea, even if ye can no more than desire to believe, let this desire work in you, even until ye believe in a manner that ye can give place for a portion of my words. Now, we will compare the word unto a seed. Now, if ye give place, that a seed may be planted in your heart, behold, if it be a true seed, or a good seed, if ye do not cast it out by your unbelief, that ye will resist the Spirit of the Lord, behold, it will begin to swell within your breasts; and when you feel these swelling motions, ye will begin to say within yourselves—It must needs be that this is a good seed, or that the word is good, for it beginneth to enlarge my soul; yea, it beginneth to enlighten my understanding, yea, it beginneth to be delicious to me. (Alma 32:27-28)

Pres. James E. Faust:

In our time the belief that science and technology can solve all of mankind's problems has become a theocracy. I would despair if I thought our eternal salvation depended on scientific, technical, or secular knowledge separate from righteousness and the word of God.

President Harold B. Lee once said: “No matter what his progress in science, man must always be subject to the will and direction of Divine Providence. Man has never discovered anything that God has not already known.”

I do not believe that this great outpouring of knowledge happened by chance. All of this secular knowledge did not come solely from the creative minds of men and women. Mankind has been on the earth a long time. Over the centuries, knowledge came at a snail's pace.

I believe that the appearance of God the Father and His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, in 1820 to Joseph Smith unlocked the heavens not only to the great spiritual knowledge revealed in this dispensation but also to secular knowledge. “Anthropologists inform us that for thousands of years the average human being could expect to live about 25 to 30 years.” But since the late 19th century, life expectancy worldwide has risen to 64 years. New ideas, including scientific inventions and discoveries of better ways

of doing things, were being produced annually at 39 a year from 4,000 b.c. to a.d. 1, contrasted to 3,840 new ideas a year in the 19th century, while today they are created at the rate of 110,000 a year.

Now comes the challenge to prevent the scientific, technical, and intellectual from stifling the spiritual enlightenment in our lives. As someone once said, "The greatest of undeveloped resources [in our country] is faith; the greatest of unused power is prayer." Technology may help us communicate with each other and the world, but not with God.

Don't forget to look for correlation and application from the *Faith in God* basic requirements (p. 4), activities (pgs. 6-11), and gospel standards (back cover).

SHOWMAN

The Showman activity badge has something for every boy and allows boys to develop their natural abilities. The aim of the badge is not to produce skilled entertainers, but to expose boys to theater and music arts, to help them build self-confidence, and of course, to have fun.

For my soul delighteth in the song of the heart; yea, the song of the righteous is a prayer unto me, and it shall be answered with a blessing upon their heads. (D&C 25:12)

For *the kingdom of heaven* is as a man travelling into a far country, *who* called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods. And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey. Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made *them* other five talents. And likewise he that *had received* two, he also gained other two. But he that had received one went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord's money. After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them. And so he that had received five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, Lord, thou deliverest unto me five talents: behold, I have gained beside them five talents more. His lord said unto him, Well done, *thou* good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord. He also that had received two talents came and said, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me two talents: behold, I have gained two other talents beside them. His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord. Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed: And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, *there* thou hast *that is* thine. His lord answered and said unto him, *Thou* wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed: Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and *then* at my coming I should have received mine own with usury. Take therefore the talent from him, and give *it* unto him which hath ten talents. For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath. (Matthew 25: 14-29)

Pres. Thomas S. Monson:

Share your talents, for that which we willingly share, we keep. But that which we selfishly keep, we lose.

Elder Henry D. Taylor:

You probably have gifts and talents that you have not yet discovered or that are dormant. These must be awakened.

The Lord told Joseph Smith, "For all have not every gift given unto them; for there are many gifts, and to every man is given a gift by the Spirit of God.

"To some is given one, and to some is given another, that all may be profited thereby." (D&C 46:11–12.)

Even if you feel your talents are small, you can still achieve. Where the desire is strong, seemingly weak talents may be strengthened and developed. As a boy, President Heber J. Grant became aware of some limitations. He was not blessed with athletic talent. He could not sing well—in fact he couldn't even carry a tune. He could not write legibly.

With a burning desire to achieve, and through long and consistent hours of practice, he became a member of the state-championship baseball team. He learned to sing many of the Latter-day Saint hymns. He became an expert penman and supplemented his income by writing Christmas cards.

President Grant summarized his achievements with these words from Ralph Waldo Emerson: “That which we persist in doing becomes easier for us to do, not that the nature of the thing itself is changed, but that our power to do is increased.”

God has granted to each of us gifts, talents, and abilities, with the hope and expectation that we will increase and use them—not for selfish purposes, but for the benefit of others. Let us never forget that these gifts are given “that all may be profited thereby.” I suggest that service in the Church offers unlimited opportunities for the unselfish use of our God-given gifts and talents.

As we strive to magnify our gifts and talents and become what the Lord would have us become, we should keep in mind the question, “What is the greatest gift promised by the Lord?”

He has said: “And if you keep my commandments and endure to the end you shall have eternal life, which gift is the greatest of all the gifts of God.” (D&C 14:7.)

Elder Robert D. Hales:

A friend of mine was asked, “Do you play the piano?” He replied, “I don’t know, I haven’t tried yet.” What a great lesson! How many talents we may have hidden that are waiting to emerge if we just try!

Don’t forget, though, that developing our creative talents is not an easy task. Sometimes I catch myself rationalizing about my lack of talents by saying, “All have not every gift given unto them” (D&C 46:11). For example, when we work closely with translators and interpreters, it’s easy to say to them, “How fortunate you are to have the gift of tongues.” On one occasion the direct answer to me was, “My gift of tongues was received after thousands of hours of study and after overcoming many moments of failure and discouragement.”

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SPORTSMAN

Sports are usually high on the list of favorites for Webelos Scout-age boys. We’re not as concerned with athletic skills as we are with *fitness* and *good sportsmanship*, which help fulfill the purposes of Cub Scouting.

Elder Joseph B. Wirthlin:

Kind words not only lift our spirits in the moment they are given, but they can linger with us over the years. One day, when I was in college, a man seven years my senior congratulated me on my performance in a football game. He not only praised how well I had done in the game, but he had noticed that I had showed good sportsmanship. Even though this conversation happened more than 60 years ago, and even though it’s highly unlikely the person who complimented me has any recollection of this conversation, I still remember the kind words spoken to me that day by Gordon B. Hinckley, who would later become President of the Church.

Val Hale, assistant to the athletic director at Brigham Young University:

How can good sportsmanship be encouraged?

The key question is, What does the Lord think of poor sportsmanship in athletics? Some might argue that sports are insignificant in the eternal scheme of things and that yelling at referees or at opposing players and throwing tantrums on the field are relatively harmless acts. But the scriptures are very clear in explaining that the Lord deplores contention of any kind. He told the Nephites: “He that hath the spirit of contention is not of me, but is of the devil, who is the father of contention, and he stirreth up the hearts of men to contend with anger, one with another.” (3 Ne. 11:29.)

The Lord certainly must be concerned about our attitudes and the unkind words we hurl at officials and others.

Good sportsmanship can prevail if we each do our part to be good sports and to let others know that rude, un-Christlike behavior is unacceptable—especially in athletics. Following are some ideas that, when implemented, help make athletic events more enjoyable for everyone:

1. *Don't allow teammates to behave in an unsportsmanlike manner.* Peer pressure is a powerful influence and can be utilized to create a positive atmosphere at sporting events. Before each season, players should agree among themselves that they will not tolerate unsportsmanlike conduct on their team. If a player objects to a call or engages in an argument with an opponent, teammates need to express their concern to the player immediately, helping him to recognize that angry words are unacceptable.

2. *Help officials by making honor calls.* Honor calls are encouraged in Church sports and ought to be more prevalent at all levels of athletics. Officials cannot see all the action at once. Such honesty takes controversy out of calls, especially close plays, and makes officiating much easier.

3. *Praise officials when they make good calls—even if they go against your team—and accept the fact that officials aren't perfect.* Every official makes mistakes, and Church officials often receive only brief basic training. Generally, officials know when they have made a bad call, but there is little that can be done to change a call once it has been made.

4. *Compliment the opposition after a good play or game.* We often get so caught up in the heat of competition that we fail to acknowledge a good play by the opposition. Kind words like “Nice shot” or “Good block,” spoken to an opponent, will not hurt your team’s performance and will promote friendly competition.

5. *Don't make excuses for poor play or losses.* After a loss, players sometimes blame the defeat on anything but their own performance. Officials, scorekeepers, bad lighting, and poor equipment end up being scapegoats.

6. *Coaches must set an example of good sportsmanship.* Coaches are responsible for the actions of their teams. They set the tone for the game. Coaches of youth, in particular, have a vital responsibility to teach their players the importance of good sportsmanship. The memory of a coach angrily confronting an umpire will remain with a young player much longer than the memory of the team losing the game.

7. *Make certain each contest begins with prayer.* A prayer before a game has a calming influence. It helps put the game in perspective and reminds players of the need for good sportsmanship.

8. *Use properly trained officials.* Church athletic officials should be called and set apart by their priesthood leaders. Adequate training must accompany the call. We need to remember that most Church officials are volunteers who are trying to do their best at a very difficult job.

9. *Don't tolerate bad sportsmanship by friends and family members.* Friends and family members can sometimes be the greatest influence for good sportsmanship. Spouses should set examples for each other of good sportsmanship at games, whether as spectators or participants. As parents, we can discourage our children from blaming others for losses or failures. We can encourage our children’s coaches not to harass officials and to be better examples for team members.

10. *Finally, cheer for your team, win or lose.* Coaches and players often spend hours practicing. They deserve our warm support. We all need to take a more active role in promoting good sportsmanship in athletics. Regardless of our role—fan, player, coach, or administrator—we can make a difference if we refuse to tolerate unsportsmanlike conduct. If we do our part, Church athletics will continue to be a valuable and important tool, providing opportunities for fellowship and wholesome recreation.

Elder Vaughn J. Featherstone:

The athlete who has a spiritual commitment has a well of reserve deep down inside of him on which he can call when others give out. Make prayer a vital part of your training.

You'll never really enjoy athletics if you are a poor sport. There is no excuse for poor sportsmanship no matter how much pressure you are under. Poor sportsmanship causes you to get down on yourself and down on the umpires or referees; you get down on your team and the competition. Equally significant, generally they will get down on you, for the Master said, "Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." (Gal. 6:7.)

Never profane the name of God or his holy Son. Oftentimes in athletics there are those who do. The young man who controls his tongue will never profane the God whom he may need to call upon under real stress.

Never find fault with your opponents or team members. They will become your enemies and will set out to destroy you. Be complimentary; build them up. Every time you lift someone up the ladder of success, you get a little closer to the top yourself.

Never want anything so badly that the person who has the power to give it to you can control you. This is true of athletics as it is in life. Integrity is vital.

Give all that you have to give; don't hold back. Be a hustler; it's a way of letting the coach see that you really want to play.

Of course, the athlete who is not dependable is useless. Be constant in all seasons.

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TRAVELER

The word "traveler" suggests faraway places and long trips.

Elder L. Lionel Kendrick:

Sometimes we think that we have learned all that we need to know about something and that we don't need to learn the same things over and over. I had an experience that taught me how important it is to be humble and willing to learn the same lessons again and again.

A number of years ago, while teaching at a university, I received an invitation to attend a professional seminar in Dallas, Texas. I was delighted because my wife's sister lived there with her family. We were able to combine a family vacation with my seminar. When my sister-in-law learned of the seminar's location, she informed me that the hotel was difficult to locate due to construction in the area. She drew up a map with numerous details to assist me in getting to downtown Dallas.

On the first morning of the seminar, I was extremely careful and gave much attention to the map. Remarkably, I made all the correct turns and arrived safely at the hotel. As I approached the hotel, I realized that it truly had been a difficult route. I knew that without the map, I would have been lost. I was pleased that I had arrived on time and never had to seek directions from anyone.

After the day's seminar, I drove home, once again closely following the directions on the map. It was even more difficult, as I had to reverse the directions. Again, I was pleased to make all the correct turns and arrive home safely. The drive took more than an hour.

The second morning found me being a little casual about the map, due to my success of the previous day. At times, I even tried to rely solely on my recollections of the previous day's journey. I arrived at the hotel on time, amazed at my ability to navigate in this unfamiliar city. That day the seminar instructors presented us with two armloads of books and other materials to study in the evening.

When I arrived at my car for the drive home, I tossed the map onto the backseat and put my new materials on the front seat. I started to think that my sister-in-law did not have enough confidence in my ability to drive in this city. I decided that I no longer needed the map.

I had no trouble getting onto the right interstate highway and making the correct exit to the next one. Then I took the right exit to the subdivision where my sister-in-law lived, found the right street without any problems, and parked in front of the house.

I retrieved all my materials from the car and juggled them in my arms as I picked up the evening paper from the lawn. I entered the front door and turned right, walking down the hall to the guest bedroom. I put my books on the dresser, sat down on the bed and removed my shoes, anxious to study my new materials. As I opened my first book, I glanced quickly around the room, then looked again. The furniture had been changed. I thought that my family should have told us that they were changing furniture. I looked more closely at it, thinking that I liked the old bedroom set better than this new one. I stood up and looked across the hall into another bedroom. Two teenage girls were sitting on the bed, talking. I thought that my sister-in-law must be serving in Young Women, as her own children were three young boys. The girls didn't seem to notice me. I tried to study my materials again, but I couldn't concentrate. A suspicion was growing in me that I had made a dreadful mistake.

By now you have realized what it took me a long time to figure out: I was in the wrong house, sitting on a stranger's bed with my shoes off! Somehow I put on my shoes, collected my books and the newspaper, and started down the hall toward the front door. Just before I reached it, I encountered two ladies. "Pardon me," I said. "I haven't met you before." Then I quickly shouted, "I am in the wrong house!" They watched calmly as I bolted through the door and tossed their newspaper onto the lawn where I had retrieved it only minutes before. My heart was beating wildly! I jumped into the car and made my getaway. I had stopped one block short of my destination.

I got myself into this predicament because I became too casual in following the road map. I learned a great principle from this experience: We can do many things right but still leave important things undone and come up a kingdom short. I had made all the correct turns on my journey home, but it was clear that I still needed to pay attention to the map.

What I learned that day about needing to continue to follow the directions on the map applies also to obeying the commandments. The scriptures reveal the divine desires of Heavenly Father and the Savior in our lives. We must study the scriptures daily so that our lives are centered around the things we learn. The scriptures become a road map for our lives. Unless we study and follow this map always, it becomes of little value in giving direction to our lives, and we can end up in the wrong place.

Elder Russell M. Nelson:

Recently Sister Nelson and I were in Denmark during the commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the Church in Scandinavia. Between meetings, we took a few hours to search for villages where two of my father's grandparents were born. They were among the early converts to the Church in Denmark. Father's paternal grandmother's family lived in the western part of the country. His paternal grandfather's family lived in northern Denmark. Thanks to a good driver and a superb map, we found each town on our list and obtained treasured information. During the entire journey, my hands were riveted to that valuable map so essential to achieve our goals.

In contrast, many people travel through life without good guidance, lacking knowledge of a desired destination or how to get there. But if rapt attention is paid to a road map for a day's journey, isn't it also wise to pay attention to authoritative guidance on our journey through life?

We all *need* guidance through life. We *obtain* it best from the standard works and teachings of the prophets of God. With diligent effort, we can *achieve* that guidance and thus qualify for all of the blessings that God has in store for His faithful children.

Elder S. Dilworth Young:

If I have learned anything in my 78-year journey through life, it is that one makes no progress when things are done for him, but he must do things for himself. I have wondered many times if I were on the right trail through my wilderness traveling toward my goal.

I soon learned in hiking with boys that they got no pleasure out of my reading the map and showing them the direction. But if I provided each one with a map and a compass and pointed to a spot on the map indicating where he was, then pointed to another spot on the map and said, "Meet me at that point at 4:00 this afternoon," he embarked on a great adventure, a great challenge, and received immense satisfaction in solving the problem. But all of this was physical satisfaction.

Our ultimate purpose in life is not physical; it is spiritual. It is to come to know God and Jesus Christ whom he has sent. That is what Christ the Lord said when he began his great prayer in Gethsemane. (See John 17.) The gospel is given to us so that we can be guided to the objective given us—to know the Father and the Son. It is as though he said to me, "Son, here is a map and a compass. You are at this spot, and your objective is to reach this other spot. You can do it quickly, or you can take a long time. The sooner you do it, the happier you will be."

I take the map and gaze at the strange symbols on it. The directions are plainly written, yet I do not quite comprehend. They are words without meaning to me. Just what is an azimuth anyhow, or what does BM x 8270 mean? What are the blue lines as opposed to the black lines and those brown lines in semi-symmetrical patterns? I must understand them to be guided by a map.

Our map, of course, is the revealed word. Our compass is the prophet of the Lord. Understanding comes when one has obtained the Spirit of the Lord, the Holy Ghost.

So let us start on our journey to find eternal life. We will need a map.