



TROOP 110

Chartered by: Central Presbyterian Church, Fort Smith, Arkansas

Worship Handbook for the Outdoors

(LEADER VERSION- Containing meditations)

SONGS

Philmont Prayer

Almighty God of hill and plain,
O'er which we hike in sun and rain,
On mountain top and valley low,
Protect us Lord where e'er we go.

And from our grateful hearts we'll raise
Glad hymns of thankfulness and praise.

(Tune: U. S. Navy Hymn)

Michael Row the Boat Ashore

Michael, row the boat ashore, Alleluia,
Michael, row the boat ashore, Alleluia.
Jordan's River is chilly and cold, Alleluia,
Kills the body but not the soul, Alleluia.
Jordan's River is deep and wide, Alleluia,
Meet my mother on the other side, Alleluia.
Gabriel, blow the trumpet horn, Alleluia,
Blow the trumpet loud and long, Alleluia.
Brother, lend a helping hand, Alleluia,
Brother, lend a helping hand, Alleluia.
Michael's boat's a gospel boat, Alleluia,
Michael's boat's a gospel boat, Alleluia.
Michael, row the boat ashore, Alleluia,
Michael, row the boat ashore, Alleluia.

Amazing Grace

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost, but now I'm found;
Was blind, but now I see

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fear relieved.
How precious did that grace appear
'Me hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils and snares
We have already come.
'Twas grace that brought us safe this far,
And grace will bring us home.

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost, but now I'm found;
Was blind, but now I see

This is my Father's World

This is my Father's world, and to my listening ears,
All nature sings and 'round me rings
The music of the spheres
This is my Father's world.
I rest me in the thought,
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas,
His hand the wonders wrought.

This is my Father's world. The birds their carols raise;
The morning light, the lily white,
Declare their Maker's praise.
This is my Father's world.
He shines in all that's fair;
In the rustling grass I hear Him pass,
He speaks to me everywhere.

Scout Vespers

Softly falls the light of day,
As our campfire fades away.
Silently, each Scout should ask,
"Have I done my daily task?"

"Have I cared and have I tried,
Can I guiltless sleep tonight?
Have I done and have I dared,
Every thing to be prepared?"

Kum Ba Ya

Kum ba ya, My Lord, Kum ba ya.
Kum ba ya, My Lord, Kum ba ya.
Kum ba ya, My Lord, Kum ba ya.
Oh Lord, Kum ba ya.

Some one's crying Lord, Kum ba ya.

Some one's laughing Lord, Kum ba ya.

Some one's shouting Lord, Kum ba ya.

Some one's praying Lord, Kum ba ya.

Kum ba ya, My Lord Kum ba ya.

Kum Ba Ya -- The Scout Law Version

Kum-ba-yah my Lord, Kum-ba-yah
Kum-ba-yah my Lord, Kum-ba-yah
Kum-ba-yah my Lord, Kum-ba-yah
O, Lord, Kum-ba-yah.
A Scout's trustworthy Lord, Kum-ba-yah,
A Scout is loyal, Lord, Kum-ba-yah,
A Scout is helpful, Lord, Kum-ba-yah,
O, Lord, Kum-ba-yah.
A Scout is friendly, Lord, Kum-ba-yah,
A Scout is courteous, Lord, Kum-ba-yah,
A Scout is kind, Lord, Kum-ba-yah,
O, Lord, Kum-ba-yah.
A Scout's obedient, Lord, Kum-ba-yah,
A Scout is cheerful, Lord, Kum-ba-yah,
A Scout is thrifty, Lord, Kum-ba-yah,
O, Lord, Kum-ba-yah.
A Scout is brave, Lord, Kum-ba-yah
A Scout is clean, Lord, Kum-ba-yah
A Scout is reverent, Lord, Kum-ba-yah
O, Lord, Kum-ba-yah.
Kum-ba-yah my Lord, Kum-ba-yah
Kum-ba-yah my Lord, Kum-ba-yah
Kum-ba-yah my Lord, Kum-ba-yah
O, Lord, Kum-ba-yah.

God Bless America

God Bless America, land that I love
Stand beside her, and guide her,
Through the night with the light from above,
From the mountains, to the prairies,
To the ocean, white with foam,
God bless America, my home sweet home.
God bless America, my home sweet home.

Let There Be Peace on Earth

Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.
Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.
With God as our Father, brothers all are we.
Let me walk with my brother in perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me, let this be the moment now.
With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow:
To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally!

Let there be peace on earth
and let it begin with me.

For the Beauty of the Earth

For the Beauty of the Earth, For the Beauty of the skies
For the love which from our birth, over and around us lies
Lord of all, to Thee we raise,

This our hymn of grateful praise.

For the wonder of each hour, of the day and of the night
Hill and vale, tree and flower, sun and moon and stars of light
Lord of all, to Thee we raise,
This our hymn of grateful praise.

For the joy of ear and eye, For the heart and mind's delight
For the mystic harmony linking sense to sound and sight
Lord of all to Thee we raise,
This our hymn of grateful praise

Morning Has Broken

Morning has broken, Like the first morning,
Blackbird has spoken, Like the first bird,
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!
Praise for them springing fresh from the word.

Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven,
Like the first dewfall on the first grass
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,
Sprung in completeness Where His feet pass.

Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning,
Born of the one light Eden saw play!
Praise with elation, Praise every morning,
God's recreation of the new day!

America the Beautiful

O beautiful for spacious skies
For amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties
Above the fruited plain
America! America!
God shed his grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood
from sea to shining sea!

O beautiful for patriot dream
That sees beyond the years
Thine alabaster cities gleam,
Undimmed by human tears!
America! America!
God shed His grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood
from sea to shining sea!

Joshua Fought the Battle of Jerico

Chorus:

Joshua fought the battle of Jerico, Jerico, Jerico;
Joshua fought the battle of Jerico, and the walls came tumbling down.

1. You may talk about your kings of Gideon,
You may talk about your men of Saul,
But there's none like good old Joshua
at the battle of Jerico.

(Chorus)

2. Now the Lord commanded Joshua:
"I command you, and obey you must;
You just march straight to those city walls
And the walls will turn to dust.

(Chorus)

3. Straight up to the walls of Jerico
He marched with spear in hand,
"Go blow that ram's horn," Joshua cried,
"For the battle is in my hand."

(Chorus)

4. Then the ram sheep horns began to blow,
And the trumpets began to sound,
And Joshua commanded, "Now children, shout!"
And the walls came tumbling down.

(Chorus)

5. Well I've heard God's voice on the mountaintop
In the desert & by the sea.
Crying "Rise up against those city walls
And you too shall be free."

(Chorus)

Fairest Lord Jesus

Fairest Lord Jesus! Ruler of all nature! O Thou of God and man the Son!
Thee will I cherish, Thee will I honor, Thou my souls glory, joy and crown!

Fair are the meadows, Fairer still the woodlands, Robed in the blooming garb of spring:
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer, Who makes the woeful heart to sing.

Fair is the sunshine, Fairer still the moonlight, And all the twinkling starry host:
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer than all the angels heav'n can boast.

Beautiful Savior! Lord of the nations! Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, Praise, adoration Now and forevermore be Thine!

Song story: Legend has it that this hymn was sung by children, marching off to the crusades of the twelfth century. Another story is that the lyrics are from a Polish folk song and used by John Hus, an early figure of the reformation. In any case, the melody was written by a German composer, Richard Willis, who also wrote the Christmas Carol "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear."

He's Got the Whole World in His Hands

He's got the whole world --- in His hands,
He's got the whole wide world --- in His hands,
He's got the whole world --- in His hands,
He's got the whole world in His hands.

He's got the wind and the rain ...

He's got you and me, brother, ...

He's got you and me, sister, ...

He's got the little bitty baby, ...

He's got Everybody here ...

One More River to Cross

Old Noah built himself an ark,
There's one more river to cross,
And built it all of hickory bark,
There's one more river to cross.

Chorus:

One more river, And that's the river Jordan;
One more river – There's one more river to cross.

The animals came two by two,
There's one more river to cross,
The elephant and kangaroo,
There's one more river to cross (repeat chorus).

The animals came three by three,
there's one more ...
The baboon and the chimpanzee,
there's one more... (repeat chorus).

The animals came four by four,
there's one more ...
Old Noah got mad and hollered for more.
there's one more ... (repeat chorus).

The animals came five by five,
there's one more ...
The bees came swarming from the hive,
there's one more ... (repeat chorus).

The animals came six by six,
there's one more ...
The lion laughed at the monkey's tricks.
There's one more ... (repeat chorus).

When Noah found he had no sail,
there's one more ...
He just ran up his old coat tail,
there's one more ... (repeat chorus).

Before the voyage did begin,
there's one more ...
Old Noah pulled the gangplank in,

there's one more ... (repeat chorus).

They never know where they were at,
there's one more ...
'Til the old ark bumped on Ararat,
there's one more ... (repeat chorus).

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home!

Under the shadow of Thy throne Still may we dwell secure;
Sufficient is Thine arm alone, And our defense is sure.

Before the hills in order stood Or earth received her frame,
From everlasting Thou art God, To endless years the same.

Time, like an ever rolling stream, Bears all its sons away;
They fly, forgotten, as a dream Dies at the opening day.

O God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come.
Be Thou our guide while life shall last, and out eternal home.

Song story: This song is a paraphrase of Psalm 90, written by Issac Watts, a famous writer of some 600 hymns. As a child, Issac complained about the music in church. His father challenged him to write something of his own, which he did by composing a new hymn each week for the next two years. Some of his other hymns are: "Joy to the World" and "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross."

Taps

Day is done, gone the sun,
From the lake, from the hills, from the sky;
All is well, safely rest, God is nigh.

Fading light dims the sight,
And a star gems the sky, gleaming bright'
From afar, drawing nigh, Falls the night.

This Land Is Your Land

This land is your land, this land is my land.
From California, to the New York Island.
From the redwood forest, to the Gulf Stream waters,
This land was made for you and me.

As I went walking that ribbon of highway,
I saw above me that endless skyway,
I saw below me that golden valley,
This land was made for you and me.

I roamed and rambled, and I followed my footsteps,

To the sparkling sands of her diamond deserts,
All around me a voice was sounding,
This land was made for you and me.

When the sun came shining, than I was strolling.
And the wheat fields waving, and the dust clouds rolling,
A voice was chanting as the fog was lifting,
This land was made for you and me.

PRAYERS

Philmont Grace

For food, for raiment
For life, for opportunity
For friendship and fellowship
We thank thee, O Lord AMEN

Thanksgiving for Scout Brotherhood

O Lord, we give You thanks for the gift of Scouting. We thank You for the wisdom and foresight of our Chief, whose first camp on Brownsea was the forerunner of our Brotherhood. We thank You for the enthusiasm and self-sacrifice of those, his immediate followers, to whom the early guidance of our Movement was entrusted. Above all, O Lord, we thank You that You have permitted us, Your servants to take our share in the service of the boyhood of our country; and for all the inspiration and happiness that Scouting has brought into our own lives.

We ask for Your blessing on our Chief, upon the boys whom we are privileged to lead, and upon the Brotherhood of Scouts throughout the world.

May we go forward re-dedicated to this, Your service, and in humble gratitude for Your many mercies.
Grant this, O Lord, for the sake of Your son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

-- Brownsea Island, April 1927, Prayers For Use In The Brotherhood of Scouts, p.32

A Scout is a Friend to All

Fill us, O Lord, with Your spirit that we may observe Your command, "Love one another, even as I loved you." May we know the love that sees only the good and is patient and forbearing; that grows stronger when difficulties increase; and that overleaps the barriers of class, of creed, and of country. Help us to love the neighbor we know so that we may learn to love our fellow-men whom we have not seen. Strengthen the bond between Scout and Scout in our Group, in our land, and throughout the World. So may we further the coming of Your Kingdom of goodwill and love; following the example of Jesus Christ. Amen

-- Prayers For Use In The Brotherhood of Scouts, p.37

For Harmony Amongst Ourselves

Father, we pray for harmony; as we seek to preserve in our Scouts the natural spirit of mutual good will, help us to show them a true example. Grant that the relations between all Scouters may ever be those of hearty cooperation and true affection. Let no class, race or policy divide us. Let personal ambition be far from us, and may we ever regard it as our chief privilege to serve You in this holy labor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

-- Prayers For Use In The Brotherhood of Scouts, p.42

To Be Scoutlike

Grant to us, Lord, the spirit to think and to think and to do always such things as be Scoutlike; that we, who cannot do any good thing without You, may by You be enabled to live according to our Promise and Law; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayers For Use In The Brotherhood of Scouts, p.59

A Closing Prayer

May the blessing of Almighty God rest upon us and upon all our work; may He give us Light to guide us, Courage to support us, and Love to unite us, now and evermore. Amen.

Prayers For Use In The Brotherhood of Scouts, p.91

Benediction

May the Lord bless us and keep us; the Lord make His face to shine upon us and be gracious to us; the Lord lift up the light of His countenance upon us and give us peace, this day (or night) and for evermore. Amen. (Adapted from the Aaronic Blessing, Bible, Numbers 6, 24.)

Prayers For Use In The Brotherhood of Scouts, p.93

For the Joy of the Year

Our Lord and creator,
We thank You today for the beauty of our world.
For sunshine and flowers,
Storm-cloud and starry nights,
For the first radiance of dawn
And the last glow of sunset.

We thank you for physical joy,
For clear water to swim in,
For the fresh smell of rain on dry ground,
For hills to climb and work to do together.

Make our hearts wide open to these gifts,
And help us to live in thanksgiving to You,
Our Lord and our creator.

Prayer of Thanks Giving

We thank you today
For the adventure of Scouting,
For the unselfishness of parents,
For the patience of teachers
And for the encouragement of friends.

God of the Open Air

God of the open air, we kneel reverently in this temple not made with hands.
The tall pines lift our thoughts above us to the Source of all this beauty.
The singing of the feather-throated choir puts a melody in our hearts, a song of joy and praise and trust.

All the discordant notes of the world are muted; all the problems of life are forgotten.

We are filled with an inner peace and know that here we have found Thee.

As we leave this hallowed spot, may the reality of Thy presence go with us to give us courage and strength for our daily tasks.

Amen.

-- Dorothy Wells Pease

We Thank Thee

We thank Thee
For flowers that bloom about our feet;
For tender grass so fresh and sweet;
For song of bird and hum of bee;
For all things fair we hear and see,
Father in heaven, we thank Thee!

-Ralph Waldo Emerson

A Scout's Prayer

We have hiked along life's pathway,
Our packs upon our backs,
We have pitched our tents and rested
Here and there along the tracks.
We have used our compass wisely
To guide us on our way
And hope to reach the campsite
Of our Great Chief Scout some day.

We have tried to be trustworthy -
Kept our honor high and clean,
We have been as loyal as any
To our Country and our Queen.
We have done our best at all times -
Kept our Promise - been prepared,
And hope our good deeds please Him
When at last our souls are bared.

We have lightened others' burdens,
With our smiles along the way,
We have kept our hand in God's hand,
Walked beside Him day by day.
And when our span of life runs out,
We'll make this gentle plea -
May we sit around His Campfire
At the Final Jamboree.
-- from "Scouting in New South Wales"

Sioux Prayer

Ho! Great Spirit, Grandfather, you have made everything and are in everything. You sustain everything, guide everything, provide everything, and protect everything, because everything belongs to you. I am weak, poor and lowly; nevertheless, help me to care, in appreciation and gratitude to you and for everything.

I love the stars, the sun and the moon, and I thank you for our beautiful mother, the Earth, whose many breasts nourish the fish, the fowls and the animals, too. May I never deceive Mother Earth; may I never deceive my people; may I never deceive myself; and above all, may I never deceive you.

Thanks Be to God

Thanks to God for things we see,
The growing flower, the waving tree,
Our mother's face, the bright blue sky
Where birds and clouds go floating by;
Thanks be to Dog for seeing.

Thanks to God for things we hear,
For sounds of friends who laugh and cheer,
The merry bells, the songs of birds,
For stories, tunes, and kindly words;
Thanks be to God for hearing.
-- from Hazel Tagg

Lord's Prayer (Translated from Chinook)

Our father who stayeth in the above
God in our hearts be Thy name,
God Thou Chief among all people
God Thy will upon earth
As in the above.
Give us every day our food;
If we do evil,
Be not Thou very angry, and if
Anyone evil towards us
Not we angry towards them
Send away far from us all evil.

Guide us Through and Out

Our Father, who art in heaven and who art on earth, even journeying with your people, thank you for being faithful and for never abandoning us. When we are in the wilderness, guide us through and out. When we are lost, please find us. When we cry out, please hear us - in the name of the One who said, "Lo, I am with you always." Amen

-- From "Meditation" by Bruce Miles, Presbyterian Record March 1985

Gaelic Prayer

Be Thou a bright flame before me,
Be Thou a guiding star above me,
Be Thou a smooth path below me,
And be a kindly shepherd behind me,
Today, tonight and forever.

Prayer from the West Indies

Oh God, who has made the earth so varied and cast the races of man in so many different molds, we who live in these lovely islands of the western sea pray for all your children. Grant that we, with all men everywhere, may enter into the full joyous life of Your Kingdom.

-- From 'Scouting' (U.K.)

Black Elk: Earth Prayer & The Sunset

Black Elk, Holy Man of the Oglala Sioux, 1863-1950

Earth Prayer

"Grandfather, Great Spirit, once more behold me on earth and lean to hear my feeble voice. You lived first, and you are older than all need, older than all prayer. All things belong to you -- the two-legged, the four-legged, the wings of the air, and all green things that live.

"You have set the powers of the four quarters of the earth to cross each other. You have made me cross the good road and road of difficulties, and where they cross, the place is holy. Day in, day out, forevermore, you are the life of things."

Hey! Lean to hear my feeble voice. At the center of the sacred hoop You have said that I should make the tree to bloom.

With tears running, O Great Spirit, my Grandfather, With running eyes I must say The tree has never bloomed

Here I stand, and the tree is withered. Again, I recall the great vision you gave me.

It may be that some little root of the sacred tree still lives. Nourish it then That it may leaf And bloom And fill with singing birds!

Hear me, that the people may once again Find the good road And the shielding tree.

The Sunset

Then I was standing on the highest mountain of them all, and round about beneath me was the whole hoop of the world. And while I stood there I saw more than I can tell and I understood more than I saw; for I was seeing in a sacred manner the shapes of all things in the spirit, and the shape of all shapes as they must live together like one being.

And I say the sacred hoop of my people was one of the many hoops that made one circle, wide as daylight and as starlight, and in the center grew one mighty flowering tree to shelter all the children of one mother and one father. And I saw that it was holy...

But anywhere is the center of the world.

Clean Hands

Make me always ready to come to you with clean hands and straight eyes. So when life fades, as the fading sunset, my spirit may come to you without shame.

Wae Wae Non Ne Mot

Menominee Tribe of Wisconsin

"The Creator above is the Great Spirit and the Great Mystery, His gifts are plentiful therefore you want not. He holds out a branch of love and protection and He draws you to where the ground is undisturbed, where the air is pure and the water is clear and clean enough to give life. You walk, you breathe, you feed, for you are pleased. The times when your heart is weak, your circle is out of balance, He lifts you up again and draws you to the good Menominee road, for He is strength and wisdom."

(part of The Menominee Version of the 23rd Psalm)

Black Elk: Holy Man of the Oglala Sioux

"Grandfather, Great Spirit, once more behold me on earth and lean to hear my feeble voice. You lived first, and you are older than all need, older than all prayer. All things belong to you -- the two-legged, the four-legged, the wings of the air, and all green things that live.

"You have set the powers of the four quarters of the earth to cross each other. You have made me cross the good road and road of difficulties, and where they cross, the place is holy. Day in, day out, forevermore, you are the life of things."

Big Thunder (Bedagi), late 19th century Algonquin

"The Great Spirit is in all things, is in the air we breathe. The Great Spirit is our Father, but the Earth is our Mother. She nourishes us; that which we put into the ground, She returns to us...."

Give us hearts to understand;

Never to take from creation's beauty more than we give; never to destroy wantonly for the furtherance of greed;

Never to deny to give our hands for the building of earth's beauty; never to take from her what we cannot use.

Give us hearts to understand

That to destroy earth's music is to create confusion; that to wreck her appearance is to blind us to beauty;

That to callously pollute her fragrance is to make a house of stench; that as we care for her she will care for us.

We have forgotten who we are.

We have sought only our own security.

We have exploited simply for our own ends.

We have distorted our knowledge.

We have abused our power.

Great Spirit, whose dry lands thirst,

Help us to find the way to refresh your lands.

Great Spirit, whose waters are choked with debris and pollution, help us to find the way to cleanse your waters.

Great Spirit, whose beautiful earth grows ugly with misuse, help us to find the way to restore beauty to your handiwork.

Great Spirit, whose creatures are being destroyed, help us to find a way to replenish them.

Great Spirit, whose gifts to us are being lost in selfishness and corruption, help us to find the way to restore our humanity.

Oh, Great Spirit, whose voice I hear in the wind, whose breath gives life to the world, hear me; I need your strength and wisdom. May I walk in Beauty.

An Ancient Prayer

[found on the wall of an old Inn in Lancashire, England]

Give us, Lord, a bit o' sun
a bit o' work and a bit o' fun;
give us all in th' struggle and splutter
our daily bread and a bit o' butter.
Give us health, our keep to make
an' a bit to spare for poor folks sake;
give us sense, for we're some of us duffers,
an' a heart to feel for all that suffers.
Give us, too, a bit of a song,
an' a tale, and a book to help us along,
an' give us our share o' sorrow's lesson
that we may prove how grief's a blessing.
Give us, Lord, a chance to be
our goodly best, brave, wise and free,
our goodly best for ourselves and others
till all men learn to live as brothers.
Amen.

Camper's Prayer

**God of the mountains and hills, make me tall and strong.
Tall enough and strong enough to right some wrong.
God of the stars, make me steadfast and sure.
God of every lake and stream, flow through my life and make it clean.**

**God of the trees and woods, keep me fresh and pure.
God of the rain, wash from my life all dirt and stain.
Pure and strong let me remain.**

**God of the seed and soil, plant in my heart Thy love.
God of the darkness and day, through shadows or light, be my stay.
Guide Thou my way.**

**God of the radiant sun, light Thou my life.
God of the glorious dawn, make each day a fresh start.
God of the evening peace and quiet, keep me free from fear and strive.
God of the carefree birds, sing in my heart.**

**God of the surging waves and sea, wide horizons give to me.
Help me to see the world as Thou would have it be.
God of the lovely rose, make me lovely, too.
God of the morning dew, each day my faith renew.
God of all growing things, keep me growing, too.**

– George Earle Owen –

Morning Prayer

God, my Father, thank you for bringing me to the beginning of a new day;
thank You for the peace and rest of the night that is past.
Each day gives me many opportunities of expressing my love for You;
all my senses, all my talents come from you; by your power and presence help me to use them well today, doing
everything for your honor. Preserve me from all that is evil, so that all I think and do and say may be pleasing to
You. Amen.

An Indian Prayer

**O' great spirit, whose voice I hear in the winds, and whose breath gives life to all the world, hear
me! I am small and weak, I need your strength and wisdom.**

Let me walk in beauty and make my eyes ever behold the red and purple sunset.

Make my hands respect the things you have made, and my ears sharp to hear your voice.

Make me wise so that I may know the things you have taught my people.

Let me learn the lessons you have hidden in every leaf and rock.

I seek strength, not to be greater than my brother, but to fight my greatest enemy – myself.

Make me always ready to come to you with clean hands and straight eyes.

So when life fades, as the fading sunset, my spirit may come to you without shame.

Written by Chief Yellow Lark, Sioux, 1887

A Hiking Prayer

The Hiking Prayer has been used frequently as a final benediction to close services. Its message is one of the most fitting for Scouts in its view of the outdoors. Note that the author, a Chassidic Rabbi, lived in the 18th and 19th centuries.

Master of the Universe, grant me the ability to be alone.
May it be my custom to go outdoors each day
Among the trees and grass, among all living things.
And there may I be alone, and enter into prayer,
To talk with the one to whom I belong.

May I express there everything in my hear,
And may all the foliage of the fields,
All grasses, trees and plants, may they all awake at my coming,
To send the powers of their life into the words of my prayer
So that my prayer and speech are made whole
Through the life and the spirit of all growing things,
Which are made as one by their transcendent source.

Rabbi Nachman of Bratslav (1772 – 1811)

Dakota Prayer

O Almighty God,
you have always been,
and before you nothing has been.

There is no one to pray to but you.
The stars of the heavens are yours,
and yours are the grasses of the earth,
and the depths of the seas.

You are older than all need,
older than all pain and prayer.

Great God, fill us with light.
Give us strength to understand and eyes to see.
Teach us to walk the soft earth
as relatives to all that live.

Help us,
for without you we are nothing. Amen.

Responsive Readings

The Boy Scout Promise: A Responsive Reading

Leader: Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart. (Deuteronomy 6:5)

Scouts: **I promise to do my best to do my duty to God.**

Leader: Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord. (Psalms 33:12)

Scouts: **I promise to do my best to do my duty to my country.**

Leader: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. (Romans 13:9)

Scouts: **I promise to do my best to help other people.**

Leader: My son, forget not My law; but let thine heart keep My commandments. (Proverbs 3:1)

Scouts: **I promise to do my best to obey the Scout Law.**

Leader: Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and you shall be My people; and walk in all the ways that I command you. (Jeremiah 7:23)

Scouts: **I promise to do my best to keep myself physically strong.**

Leader: A wise man is strong; yea, a man of knowledge increaseth strength. (Proverbs 24:5)

Scouts: **I promise to do my best to keep myself mentally awake.**

Leader: Thou shalt do that which is right and good in the sight of the Lord. (Deuteronomy 6:18)

Scouts: **I promise to do my best to keep myself morally straight.**

Leader: Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your path. (Proverbs 3:5-6)

Psalm 23

Leader: The LORD is my shepherd;

Group: **I have everything I need.**

Leader: He lets me rest in fields of green grass and leads me to quiet pools of fresh water.

Group: **He gives me new strength.**

Leader: he guides me in the right paths, as he has promised.

Group: **Even if I go through the deepest darkness, I will not be afraid, LORD, for you are with me.**

Leader: Your shepherd's rod and staff protect me.

Group: **You prepare a banquet for me, where all my enemies can see me; you welcome me as an honored guest and fill my cup to the brim.**

All: **I know that your goodness and love will be with me all my life; and your house will be my home as long as I live.**

The Scout Law: A Responsive Reading

- Leader: The Scout Law is a guiding light to millions of boys and men throughout the world today, but the principles of the law have been brought to us from ancient days. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbors. Exodus 20:13)
- Scouts: A Scout is Trustworthy.**
- Leader: He that is faithful in that which is least, is faithful also in much; and he that is unjust in the least, is also unjust in much. (Luke 16:10)
- Scouts: A Scout is Loyal.**
- Leader: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. (Leviticus 19:18) Thou shalt surely open thy hand unto thy poor and needy brother in thy land. (Deuteronomy 15:11)
- Scouts: A Scout is Helpful.**
- Leader: Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love, in honor preferring one another. (Romans 12:10) Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brothers to dwell together in unity. (Psalms 133:1)
- Scouts: A Scout is Friendly.**
- Leader: Let no bad word pass your lips, but only such speech as is good for edification. As occasion may require, use words that are gracious and a means of grace to those that hear them. Ephesians 4:29)
- Scouts: A Scout is Courteous.**
- Leader: A righteous man regardeth the life of his beast. (Proverbs 12:10)
- Scouts: A Scout is Kind.**
- Leader: Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honor thy father and thy mother, which is the first commandment with promise; that is may be well with thee and thou mayest live only on the earth. Ephesians 6:1-3)
- Scouts: A Scout is Obedient.**
- Leader: A glad heart makes a cheerful face, but a sad heart breaks the spirit. For the hapless, every day is hard, but a cheerful heart is an unending feast. (Proverbs 15:13)
- Scouts: A Scout is Cheerful.**
- Leader: Go to the ant, thou sluggard, consider her ways and be wise; which, having no chief, overseer or ruler, provides her bread in the summer and gathers her food in the harvest. (Proverbs 6:6)
- Scouts: A Scout is Thrifty.**
- Leader: Be strong, be brave, fear not, be not terrified of them, for it is the eternal, your God, who goes with you. He will never fail nor forsake you. (Deuteronomy 31:6)
- Scouts: A Scout is Brave.**
- Leader: Who shall ascend unto the mountain of the Lord, and who shall stand in His holy place? He that has clean hands and a pure heart, who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity nor sworn deceitfully. He shall receive the blessing from the Lord and righteousness from the God of his salvation. (Psalms 24:3)
- Scouts: A Scout is Clean.**
- Leader: And thou shalt love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your mind and with all your strength; this is the first commandment. (Mark 12:30)
- Scouts: A Scout is Reverent. He is reverent toward God. He is faithful in his religious duties and respects the convictions of others.**

The Scout Law Litany

S) *A Scouts Honor is to be trusted.*

L) We pray Thee, Lord, for fearless honest, that knowing neither "but" nor "if" we may be known as trustworthy men.

A) *Make us good Scouts, Lord.*

S) *A Scout is loyal to the Queen, his country, his Scouters, his parents, his employers, and to those under him.*

L) We pray Thee, Lord, for every knightly virtue, that no ignoble quest or untrue thing may dim the splendor of our loyalties.

A) *Make us good Scouts, Lord.*

S) *A Scout's duty is to be useful and helpful to others.*

L) We pray Thee, Lord, for happy diligence, that as apprentices of Him who served mankind, we may master the virtue of helpfulness.

A) *Make us good Scouts, Lord.*

S) *A Scout is a friend to all, and a brother to every other Scout.*

L) We pray Thee, Lord, for friendly hearts, that neither class nor creed, nor color, nor accident of birth may blind us to claims of brotherhood.

A) *Make us good Scouts, Lord.*

S) *A Scout is courteous.*

L) We pray Thee, Lord, for simple courtesy, that being strong we may uphold the weak, and being men, may yet be gentlemen.

A) *Make us good Scouts, Lord.*

S) *A Scout is a friend to animals.*

L) We pray Thee, Lord, for all the speechless subjects of God's kingdom, that we may be humble to learn the lessons they can teach us, and eager to befriend them.

A) *Make us good Scouts, Lord.*

S) *A Scout obeys orders of his parents, Patrol Leader and Scoutmaster without question.*

L) We pray Thee, Lord, for vigorous free obedience, that being masters of ourselves, we may be willing servants of authority.

A) *Make us good Scouts, Lord.*

S) *A Scout smiles and whistles under all difficulties.*

L) We pray Thee, Lord, for joyful humor, that we may not run before the gale, but beat into the wind with hearts held high, and gay and gallant constancy.

A) *Make us good Scouts, Lord.*

S) *A Scout is thrifty.*

L) We pray Thee, Lord, for generous thrift, that we may save the gifts of God and yet be set on giving more than getting.

A) *Make us good Scouts, Lord.*

S) *A Scout is clean in thought, word and deed.*

L) We pray Thee, Lord, for Thy presence in our hearts, that all befouling things may drop away from us as dead desires.

A) Make us good Scouts, Lord.

L) Truly our Law is founded as a house upon a rock. It is rooted in the principles of God. Let us then with pride and purpose renew our Scout Promise.

A) The Scout Promise. (Make the Scout sigh and repeat) I Promise to do my best, to love and serve God, My Queen, my country and my fellow men, And to live by the Scout Law.

----- **A) All S) A Scout** L) Leader -----

The Scout Oath

Leader: Our honor is a quality we possess because of our dignity as human beings and children of GOD. Our 'best' means to give all we have. It means to keep striving to do what we know is right, and in the Oath it means we will try to be good Scouts by fulfilling our Scout duties as expressed in the Scout Law.

Congregation: ON MY HONOR I WILL DO MY BEST.

Leader: Our duty to GOD and country means chiefly two things: obedience and loyalty. The duties we owe to the House of GOD, to our country, to parents, to one another, and to ourselves come from some command of GOD. the Scout Law sums up all the qualities a Scout should have and without which he can not be a good Scout.

Congregation: TO DO MY DUTY TO GOD AND MY COUNTRY AND TO OBEY THE SCOUT LAW.

Leader: Our Lord told us that love of our neighbor was like the first law of love of GOD. The first children of GOD were known by the love they had for one another. Real human charity or love prompts us to want to help others at all times. Our Scout training will give us skills and knowledge that will put us in a better position to do this.

Congregation: TO HELP OTHER PEOPLE AT ALL TIMES.

Leader: Scouting offers us many opportunities to grow strong physically. To be alert and ready requires us to give special care to those gifts of soul - intellect and will - that make us unto GOD. 'Morally straight' means we must try to know what is right and true, and to love what is good and choose it.

Congregation: TO KEEP MYSELF PHYSICALLY STRONG, MENTALLY AWAKE, AND MORALLY STRAIGHT.

The Boy Scout Law I

Leader "The person who is dishonest shall not live in My house; the person who is untruthful shall not stand before My eyes." Psalms 101: 7

People: A SCOUT IS TRUSTWORTHY

Leader: And Ruth said: "Do not beg me to leave you or to return from following after you, for where you go I will go; and where you stay, I will stay." Ruth 1: 16

People: A SCOUT IS LOYAL,

Leader: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself" Leviticus 19: 18

People: A SCOUT IS HELPFUL

Leader: "Can two walk together unless they agree?"

People: A SCOUT IS FRIENDLY

Leader: "Honor your Father and your Mother." Exodus 20: 12

People: A SCOUT IS COURTEOUS

Leader: "Withhold not good from the person to whom it is due, when it is in the power of your hand to do it" Proverbs 3: 27

People: A SCOUT IS KIND

Leader: "Apply your heart to instruction, and your ears to the words of knowledge." Proverbs 23: 12

People: A SCOUT IS OBEDIENT

Leader: "A glad heart is good medicine." Proverbs 17: 22

People: A SCOUT IS CHEERFUL

Leader: "Precious treasure remains in a wise person's dwelling, but a foolish person uses it up." Proverbs 20:12

People: A SCOUT IS THRIFTY

Leader: "Be strong and of good courage." First Chronicles 28: 20

People: A SCOUT IS BRAVE

Leader: "Who shall ascend the mountain of the Lord? And who shall stand in His holy place? 'Me person who has clean hands and a pure heart. Psalms 24: 3-4

People: A SCOUT IS CLEAN

Leader: "It has been told to you what is good, and what the Lord requires of you; Only to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God." Micah 6: 8

People: A SCOUT IS REVERENT

The Boy Scout Law II

A Responsive Reading based on the Twelve Points of the [Boy] Scout Law

A Scout is Trustworthy

No one who practices deceit shall remain in my house; no one who utters lies shall continue in my presence. Psalm 101:7

A Scout is Loyal

It is a loyal thing you do when you render any service to the friends, even though they are strangers to you. 3 John 1:5

A Scout is Helpful

In all this I have given you an example that by such work we must help the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, for he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' Acts 20:35

A Scout is Friendly

Some friends play at friendship, but a true friend sticks close than one's nearest kin. Proverbs 18:24

A Scout is Courteous

Remind them to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show courtesy to everyone. Titus 3:2

A Scout is Kind

Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you. Ephesians 4:32

A Scout is Obedient

So, Jesus went back with them to Nazareth, where he was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. Luke 2:51

A Scout is Cheerful

In the world you have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world. John 16:33

A Scout is Thrifty

Precious treasure remains in the house of the wise, but the fool devours it. Proverbs 21:20

A Scout is Brave

Be strong and of good courage. 1 Chronicles 28:20

A Scout is Clean

Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord? And who shall stand in his holy place? Those who have clean hands and pure hearts. Psalm 24:3

A Scout is Reverent

And what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God. Micah 6:8

--Thanks to Alan Houser, troop24@emf.net

The Boy Scout Law III

Leader: A true and worthy person recognizes his obligations and does them without being watched or compelled.

People: **A SCOUT IS TRUSTWORTHY.**

Leader: We owe much to many - to home, school, community, nation, and to God.

People: **A SCOUT IS LOYAL.**

Leader: The good Samaritan showed the spirit of doing a Good Turn.

People: **A SCOUT IS HELPFUL.**

Leader: Courtesy is the mark of all faiths. It is shown in thoughtful acts and kindly respect for everyone.

People: **A SCOUT IS COURTEOUS.**

Leader: Kindliness is the way people show respect for others.

People: **A SCOUT IS KIND.**

Leader: Life is filled with things that we must do whether we like them or not. One of the marks of growing up is our readiness to accept responsibilities willingly.

People: **A SCOUT IS OBEDIENT.**

Leader: Our moods make our days. If we are grouchy, our day is gloomy. If we are happy, our day is always happier.

People: **A SCOUT IS CHEERFUL.**

Leader: The world offers many gifts. a wise person uses them with care.

People: **A SCOUT IS THRIFTY.**

Leader: To each of us comes danger, difficult tasks, and temptations. In choice of courage or cowardice, may we be brave.

People: **A SCOUT IS BRAVE.**

Leader: Cleanliness is next to Godliness. To have a clean body, a clean mind, and a clean record is a rewarding achievement.

People: **A SCOUT IS CLEAN.**

Leader: Character is determined by the things we worship. If we respect ourselves and our brothers and sisters, and see them as gifts of the goodness of God, we live on a high plane.

People: **A SCOUT IS REVERENT.**

All: **GIVE US CLEAN HANDS, CLEAN WORDS, AND CLEAN THOUGHTS, O GOD. TEACH US TO WORK HARD AND PLAY FAIRLY. FORGIVE US WHEN WE ARE UNKIND AND HELP US TO HELP OTHERS. SEND US STRENGTH TO DO A GOOD TURN EACH DAY AND SO LIVE AFTER THY WILL.**

Meditations

Some of these meditations are simply themes that you can use to develop your own remarks. Other are full text presentations. You will probably want to choose the latter until you are confident speaking in front of your group, but don't wait too long before you accept the challenge of an extemporaneous meditation that is truly your own.

One good source for meditation themes is to simply pay attention to the sermon on Sundays. You can take a few notes and cut it down to the desired length!

Other sources are any of the "Chicken Soup" books. Since these are copyrighted, I have not included any of them, but they can be purchased or obtained from the library. A quick review of any of the books in the series will provide you with at least a dozen stories that would be appropriate for a scout service. They also have a web site. For a more biblical source, try looking through *The Upper Room*, a Christian devotional booklet service available at many churches. It has a story and bible reverence for each day of the month.

7.1 The Meaning of Reverence

The word *reverence* refers to a profound respect for God. The wonders of the world remind us of our God's creative power. We find it in the tiny lines of a leaf and the great mysteries of the universe. It exists in the kindness of people and in the teachings of our families and religious leaders.

We sow our reverence by living our lives according to the ideals of our beliefs.

The United States Constitution gives each of us complete freedom to believe and worship as we wish without fear of punishment. All your life, you will encounter people who hold different religious beliefs or even none at all. It is your duty to respect and defend the rights of others whose beliefs may differ from yours.

7.2 The Duty of Prayer

In the life of the Indian, there was only one inevitable duty – *the duty of prayer* – the daily recognition of the Unseen and Eternal. His daily devotions were more necessary to him than daily food. He wakes at daybreak, puts on his moccasins and steps down to the water's edge. Here he throws handfuls of clear, cold water into his face, or plunges in bodily. After the bath, he stands erect before the advancing dawn, facing the sun as it dances upon the horizon, and offers his unspoken orison. His mate may precede or follow him in his devotions, but never accompanies him. Each soul must meet the morning sun, the new sweet earth and the Great Silence alone!

Whenever, in the course of the daily hunt the red hunter comes upon a scene that is strikingly beautiful or sublime – a black thundercloud with the rainbow's glowing arch above the mountain, a white waterfall in the heart of a green gorge, a vast prairie tinged with the blood-red of sunset – he pauses for an instant in the attitude of worship. He sees no need for setting apart one day in seven as a holy day, since to him all days are God's.

7.3 A Scout Leader's Wish

Deep reflection on my role causes me to pause. Can I remember? Can I be the leader I want to be?

Let me exhibit the qualities of those who I have admired, and shun the qualities of those I did not.

Let me create a safe haven for all who come to our troop.

Let me be as respectful of others and their ideas as I was when I saw an American Flag being ceremoniously retired by flame.

Let me have the humility to seek help from those more knowledgeable than I.

Let me remember, that in a Scout's eyes, what I do speaks louder than what I say.

Let me have the patience to let the Scouts lead, fail and succeed.

Let me have the grace to praise the Scouts for the troop's successes and accept the blame for its failures.

Let me have the perception and caring to seek out the troubled youth, the homesick camper, and the lonely Scout.

Let me have the creativity to help provide fun, spirit and knowledge.

Let me have the attentiveness to listen and respond completely,

Let me have enough time for deep reflection.

Let me have the necessary qualities and skill to instill the true meaning of the Scout Law, Oath, Motto, and Slogan.

Let me remember, but not be burdened by, the responsibilities of my position.

And please, Oh Lord, help me to watch over the Scouts under my care.

7.4 **Green Blackboards**

The school is up to date...

Proudly, the Principal enumerates all the new improvements.

The finest discovery, Lord, is the green blackboard.

The scientists have all studied the matter at length; they have made their experiments.

We now know that green is the ideal color. It does not tire the eyes; it is quieting and relaxing.

... But it has occurred to me, Lord, that you didn't wait so long to paint the trees and the meadows green.

We now know that green is the ideal color. It does not tire the eyes; it is quieting and relaxing.

... But it has occurred to me, Lord, that you didn't wait so long to paint the trees and the meadows green.

Your research laboratories were efficient, and in order not to tire us, you perfected a number of shades of green for your modern meadows.

And so the "finds" of men consist in discovering what you have thought from time immemorial.

Thank you, Lord, for being the good Father who gives His children the joy of discovering by themselves the treasures of His intelligence and love.

But keep us from believing that by ourselves, we have invented anything at all.

7.5 **All Things Beautiful**

All things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful,
The Lord God made them all.

Each little flower that opens,
Each little bird that sings,
He made their glowing colors,
He made their tiny wings.

The purple-headed mountain,
The river running by,
The sunset, and the morning,

That brighten up the sky.

The cold wind in winter,
The pleasant summer sun,
The ripe fruits in the garden,
He made them every one.

The tall trees in the greenwood,
The meadows where we play,
The rushes by the water,
We gather every day.

He gave us eyes to see them,
And lips that we might tell
How great is God Almighty,
Who has made all things well.

– Cecil Alexander –

7.6 B-P on Religion

The old knights were very religious. They were always careful to attend religious services, especially before going into battle or undertaking any serious difficulty. They considered it the right thing to be always prepared for death. Besides worshipping God in church, the knights always recognized His work in the things that He made, such as animals, plants, and all scenery.

And so it is with peace Scouts today.

Wherever they go, they love the woodlands, the mountains, and the prairies, and they like to watch and know about the animals that inhabit them and the wonders of the flowers and plants.

No man is much good unless he believes in God and obeys His laws. So every Scout should have a religion.

Religion seems a very simple thing: First, Love and serve God. Second, love and serve your neighbor.

In doing your duty to God, always be grateful to Him. Whenever you enjoy a pleasure or a good game, or succeed in doing a good thing, thank him for it, if only with a word or two, just as you say grace at a meal. And it is a good thing to bless other people. For instance, if you see a train starting off, just pray for God's blessing on all that are in the train.

In doing your duty towards man, be helpful and generous, and also always be grateful for any kindness done to you, and be careful to show that you are grateful. Remember again that a present given to you is not yours until you have thanked the giver for it.

While you are living your life on this earth, try to do something good which may remain after you.

One writer says: "I often think that when the sun goes down the world is hidden by a big blanket from the light of heaven, but the stars are little holes pierced in that blanket by those who have done good deeds in this world. The stars are not all the same size; some are big, some are little, and some men have done great deeds and others have done small deeds, but they have made their hole in the blanket by doing good before they went to heaven."

Try and make your hole in the blanket by good work while you are on this earth.

It is something to BE good, but it is far better to DO good.

7.7 **The Road Not Taken**

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
And sorry I could not travel both
And be one traveler, long I stood
And looked down one as far as I could
To where it bent in the undergrowth.

Then took the other, as just as fair,
And having perhaps the better claim,
Because it was grassy and wanted wear;
Though as for that the passing there
Had worn them really about the same.

And both that morning equally lay
In leaves no step had trodden black.
Oh, I kept the first for another day.
I doubted if I should ever come back.

I shall be telling this with a sigh.
Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I –
I took the one less traveled by.
And that has made all the difference.

Robert Frost

7.8 **An Indian's Reflection on the Soul**

The soul of Man is immortal. Whence it came into this world or whither (where) it goes when it departs, he does not know. But when his time comes to die, he should remember that he is going on to the next world. What the next life contains for him, he has no means of ascertaining. Nevertheless, he should not approach it with fear and trembling, repenting and weeping over such things as he has left undone, or such things as he should not have done. He should rest assured that he has done his best with the gifts and the limitations that were his, and that his condition there will be governed by his record and his behavior here. Therefore, let him sing his Death Song, and go out like a hero going home.

7.9 **The Indian Creed**

There is one Great Spirit, the creator and ruler of all things, to whom we are responsible. He is eternal, invisible, omniscient, omnipotent, unportrayable. In and through Him all beings live and move; to Him all worship and allegiance are due; from Him all good things come. Him we must approach with reverence; His favor may be won by prayer, by sacrifice, and a kindly life; knowledge of Him, by discipline, by fasting, and by lonely vigil; and with that knowledge will come His guidance. He is impersonal; yet at times inspiring or entering personally into animals, birds, clouds, rain, mountains, men or things. Under Him are many lesser spirits.

Having arrived on this earth, the first duty of man is the attainment of perfect manhood, which is the just development of every part and power that go to make a man, and the fullest reasonable enjoyment of the same. He must achieve manhood in the Body Way, the Mind Way, the Spirit Way, and the Service Way.

Having attained to high manhood, he must consecrate that manhood to the service of his people. He must, above all, be a good provider for his family, a brave protector, a kind and helpful neighbor, and every ready to defend his family, his camp, or his Tribe from a foreign foe.

Earnest Thompson Seton

7.10 A Scoutmaster's Prayer (for Woodbadge or a Scouter functions)

A little boy came knocking at my Scout room door,
An awfully little fellow, just twelve and no more.
His eyes danced as he watched my gang at rowdy play.
"I would like to be a Scout," he said, "I'm 12 just yesterday."
In the weeks to come he found his place, a trim young Scout he made.
The tests he passed with eagerness, a thorough job sure paid.
The oath, the laws, the knots and flag were taken to his heart.
A better man he was sure to be tho he'd just begun to start.
By the candle-lighted darkness I watched his round face beam
As the oath and law he pledged to keep – just like a prayer it seemed.
The years to come were happy ones as we followed the trail –
That greater men had laid for us far up where eagles sail.
I watched him grow from boy to man, the days were far too few,
To try and teach the important things that Scouting said were true.
I didn't know so long ago our nation he would defend,
I only saw a job to do, a helping hand to lend.
Now he's flying higher still with silver wings up there.
I pray to God the job I did was better than just fair.
He thanked me once for what I did so many years ago.
It was not his thanks that paid me because he did not know
That greater thanks he'd given me a thousand times before
By his dancing eyes and smiling face – could one ask for more?
There are other boys a-knocking, I must invite them in.
Please, God, give me strength to make them better men.

*Buch Burshears, Scoutmaster
Koshare Indian Dancers, La Junta, Colorado*

7.11 The Man in the Glass

When you get what you want in your struggle for self,
And the world makes you king for a day,
Just go to a mirror and look at yourself,
And see what that man has to say.

For it isn't your father or mother or wife
Whose judgment upon you must pass,
The fellow whose verdict counts most in your life,

Is the one staring back from the glass.

Some people might think you're a straight-shooting chum,
And call you a wonderful guy.
But the man in the glass says you're only a bum
If you can't look him straight in the eye.

He's the fellow to please, never mind all the rest
For he's with you clear to the end.
And you've passed your most difficult, dangerous test
If the guy in the glass is your friend.

You may fool the whole world down the pathway of years
And get pats on the back as you pass,
But your final reward will be heartache and tears
If you've cheated the man in the glass.

- *Author unknown*

7.12 B-P's Farewell Message To Scouts

Dear Scouts:

If you have ever seen the play *Peter Pan* you will remember how the pirate chief was always making his dying speech because he was afraid that possibly when the time came for him to die he might not have time to get it off his chest. It is much the same with me, and so, although I am not at this moment dying, I shall be doing so one of these days and I want to send you a parting word of good-bye.

Remember, it is the last you will ever hear from me, so think it over.

I have had a most happy life and I want each one of you to have as happy a life too.

I believe that God put us in this jolly world to be happy and enjoy life. Happiness doesn't come from being rich, nor merely from being successful in your career, nor by self-indulgence. One step towards happiness is to make yourself healthy and strong while you are a boy, so that you can be useful and so can enjoy life when you are a man.

Nature study will show you how full of beautiful and wonderful things God has made the world for you to enjoy. Be contented with what you have got and make the best of it. Look on the bright side of things instead of the gloomy one.

But the real way to get happiness is by giving out happiness to other people. Try and leave this world a little better than you found it and when your turn comes to die, you can die happy in feeling that at any rate you have not wasted your time but have done your best. "Be Prepared" in this way, to live happy and to die happy – stick to your Scout promise always – even after you have ceased to be a boy – and God help you to do it.

Your Friend,

Baden-Powell of Gilwell
September, 1940

7.13 Other B-P Quotes About Religion

When asked where religion came into Scouting, B-P replied: "It does not come in at all. It is already there. It is a fundamental factor underlying Scouting and Guiding." (*Religion and the Boy Scout and Girl Guides Movement*, an address in 1926)

"I don't mean by this the mere soldiering and sailing services; we have no military aim or practice in our movement; but I mean the ideals of service for their fellow-men. In other words, we aim for the practice of Christianity in their everyday life and dealings, and not merely the profession of its theology on Sundays. ... The co-operation of tiny sea insects has brought about the formation of coral islands. No enterprise is too big where there is goodwill and co-operation carrying it out. Every day we are turning away boys anxious to join the Movement, because we have not the men or women to take them in hand. There is a vast reserve of loyal patriotism and Christian spirit lying dormant in our nation today, mainly because it seems no direct opportunity for expressing itself. Here in this joyous brotherhood there is a vast opportunity open to all in a happy work that shows results under your hands and a work that is worth while because it gives every man his chance of service for his fellow men and for God." (*Scouting for Boys*, 1908)

"No man is much good unless he believes in God and obeys His laws. So every Scout should have a religion. ... Religion seems a very simple thing: First, Love and serve God. Second: Love and serve your neighbour." (*Scouting for Boys*)

"The atheists maintain that a religion that has to be learned from books written by men cannot be a true one. But they don't seem to see that besides printed books, God has given us, as one step, the great Book of nature to read; and they cannot say that there is untruth there – the facts stand before them. ... I do not suggest nature Study as a form of worship or as a substitute for religion, but I advocate the understanding of nature as a step, in certain cases, towards gaining religion." (*Rovering to Success*, 1930, p. 181)

"Development of outlook naturally begins with a respect for God, which we may best term 'Reverence.' Reverence to God and reverence for one's neighbour and reverence for oneself as a servant of God, is the basis of every form of religion. The method of expression of reverence to God varies with every sect and denomination. What sect or denomination a boy belongs to depends, as a rule, on his parents' wishes. It is they who decide. It is our business to respect their wishes and to second their efforts to inculcate reverence, whatever form of religion the boy professes. There may be many difficulties relating to the definition of the religious training in our Movement where so many different denominations exist, and the details of the expression of duty to God have, therefore, to be left largely in the hands of the local authority. But there is no difficulty at all in suggesting the line to take on the human side, since direct duty to one's neighbour is implied in almost every form of belief." (*Aids to Scoutmastership* 1919)

Katharine Furse described him [B-P] with more than a hint of tongue-in-cheek as 'the inspired mystic of Scouting,' but this was actually how he was seen by millions. This image owed much to his growing tendency to represent Scouting as a form of religion. "Scouting is nothing less than applied Christianity," he had written in the introduction to a pamphlet entitled *Scouting and Christianity* in 1917. In 1921 in a pamphlet entitled *The Religion in the Woods* he argued that observing the beauties of nature was the best way in which to apprehend God and that no one religion held a monopoly of truth. This made him very unpopular with churchmen. ... One churchman ... accused Baden-Powell of "sweeping with one magnificent gesture the Christian Revelation, Mohammadanism, and all the rest, into a heap of private opinions which do not matter much. In the next edition of the *Headquarters Gazette*, Baden-Powell obliged his horrified committee by assuring readers that it was "not his intention to attach Revealed Religion or to suggest a substitute for it." But he never regretted what he had said, nor that he had invited Muslims and Buddhists to recite prayers at Gilwell. He quoted Carlyle as saying: "The religion of

a man is not the creed he professes but his life – what he acts upon, and knows of life, and his duty in it. A bad man who believes in a creed is no more religious than the good man who does not.” Baden-Powell’s public refusal to countenance the exclusive claims of any one religion was accompanied by the increasingly fervent references to “God” in his speeches. (The Boy-Man by Tim Jeal, p. 515)

7.14 **Eagles Soaring High**

Even those who are young grow weak; young men can fall exhausted. But those who trust in the Lord will find their strength renewed. They will rise on wings like eagles; they will run and not get weary; they will walk and not grow weak.” (Isaiah 40:31)

Have you seen an eagle on the trail yet? We can learn from eagles and from so much in nature.

One day, a fisherman watched as a mother eagle dropped a young eaglet into the canyon below. The eaglet plummeted and fluttered. It appeared that it was about to be dashed to its death on the rocks below, when out of the sky plunged the father eagle and caught his offspring on his broad back. Then he flew up high and dropped the young one again. This time the mother caught the little one on her back. The routine was repeated until the little eagle learned to fly.

God gives us opportunities to try our wings so that we might learn to fly on our own. Certainly, the _____ [Philmont/scouting/summer camp/high adventure] experience is one of these learning and growing opportunities. Yet God always watches over us and spreads His wings of protection beneath us.

God said to the Israelites on their wilderness trek, “I bore you on eagles’ wings.” Christ Who gave His life for us on the cross has promised, “I will be with you always,” So lift up your head and rejoice!

(Closing unison prayer) **O Lord, when I grow weary, lift me up on your wings. Give me the courage and strength I need for tomorrow. Amen**

7.15 **Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25:14) / “Do Your Best”**

“Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his property to them. To one he gave five talents [a talent was worth more than a thousand dollars, a vast sum] of money, to another two talents, and to another one talent, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. The man who had received the five talents went at once and put his money to work and gained five more. So also, the one with the two talents gained two more. But the man who had received the one talent went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money.

After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. The man who had received the five talents brought the other five. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with five talents. See, I have gained five more.’

His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’

The man with the two talents also came. “Master,” he said, ‘you entrusted me with two talents; see, I have gained two more.’”

His master replied, "Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!"

Then the man who had received the one talent came. "Master," he said, "I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. So I was afraid and went out and hid your talent in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you."

His master replied, "You wicked, lazy servant! So you know that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest."

Take the talent from him and give it to the one who has the ten talents. For everyone who has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him. And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

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Interpretations: No biblical passage puts matters on a personal basis more than the parable Jesus taught in Mt. 25 concerning talents. He demands the very best of each of us. Can be interwoven with the "do your best" part of the Scout Oath.

Do the best you can, always.

- We are not perfect (Phil. 3:14)
- We can't give up (Gal. 6:9)

Always maintain a good attitude.

- A complaining view never helps. (Ex. 16:2)
- It caused the one talent man to turn sour. (Mt. 25)
- Attitude is the key to life. (Heb. 6:11)

Never compare yourself with others.

- We are given according to our abilities. (1 Cor. 12: 28)
- We are only asked to do the best we can. (2 Cor. 10:12)

Always give God the glory.

- The key to success. (Mk. 9:41)
- The one talent man blamed God. (Mk. 25:24)
- If the one talent man observed these points, his life would have been rich, productive and fulfilling.
- Sadly, he was cast out of the kingdom. What should have been a joyful time became a shameful reflection of wasted opportunities.

7.16 The Arrow

Arrows are used as an extension of the hunter's arm, so they could reach out to a greater distance. The arrow was and is used in almost every culture. There are biblical lessons to be found in the arrow.

The Shaft (our bodies):

- Must be of good seasoned wood. We are God's tools in this world. Moses was seasoned for

almost forty years before he was of use to God.

– The arrow must be straight. To fly a true course, the arrow can't be crooked.

The Head or Point (pure mind):

– A sharp point is needed to be able to penetrate the target. Likewise, we should be alert at all time, doing nothing to dull our thoughts. (Prov. 23:19)

– The point should be protected and checked often. So too, what we think about, we will do. (Prov. 23: 7)

The Feathers (God's Word):

– To fly straight, the arrow needs balance and guidance. God's Word helps to guide our way. (Ps. 119: 105)

– Feathers must be attached so that when shot, they stay on the shaft. So too, God's Word needs to be fixed in our hearts. (Deut.11: 18)

The Bow String Notch (the place where God and man meet)

– The arrow has no power of its own. To be used, it must be shot. (Ps. 18: 32)

– The notch is the place where the string makes contact with the arrow. Without a place for the string to rest, the arrow can't be used. For us, to be powered by God, we must be aligned with God. (Amos 3:3)

The Quiver (God's protection)

– It gives protection to the arrows. While in the quiver, the arrows are protected from breakage. In the same way, God protects us. While we are in His care, nothing can harm us. (Ps. 17: 8)

– The quiver is used to carry the group of arrows, which have no power in and of themselves. God carries us and is always with us. (Isaiah 40:10)

The Value of the Arrow (How God views man)

– The arrow made by the Indian by hand represented a large investment of time and skill. They were guarded very closely. In the same way, God made man special and gave him the ability to rule over all creation. (Gen. 1:26)

– We represent a major investment by God. He made us in His own image and after His likeness. He has done and will do for us all we could ever expect. God will help us if we do what He asks. (Ps. 145:17)

7.17 Rope

As scouts, we all have used rope many times. We are very familiar with it. What is it about rope that we can learn a lesson from?

It has many fibers.

– One fiber does not make a rope.

– Woven together, it is strong. Think also of Gods small creatures. (Prov. 30:27)

They consist of many different types of materials.

– No matter what they are made of, they are all rope. Nylon is used for mountain climbing, poly for around water, hemp is plentiful and good for lashings, cotton for halters and lead ropes, etc.

As there are many different types and purposes for rope, so too is it with us.

– We are all different, but we are God’s children, created for a purpose. Other examples include: Moses, leading God’s people, trained by a King (Heb. 11:24); David leading God’s people, had no formal training (1 Sam. 16:11); Samuel, a prophet, was raised in the house of God (1 Sam. 1:24); Elisha, another prophet was called while plowing a field (1 Kings 19:19).

Rope needs to be held together (whipping, fusing) or it will come undone.

– God is the force that keeps us together. Without him, life is nothing. (Rev. 22:13)

– The fellowship of God’s people is what makes us strong. (Gal. 6:1)

Rope will wear out.

– Over time, even the best rope will wear out.

– Our bodies get old and someday, will wear out. (James 4:14)

– We need to be ready for that day (“be prepared”), so we can hear: “Well done, thou good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things. I will make thee ruler over many things. Enter though into the joy of thy Lord.” (Mat. 25:21)

7.18 **Eagles**

The eagle, the highest rank in scouting, is an animal referred to over 30 times in the Bible. We can learn much from the Eagle.

Eagles make lasting commitments.

– They chose their mates for life, once they past the test. So too, we should test things we do. (Rev. 2:2)

– They stay with their nest all year, never head south for the winter. This is like Joshua’s charge to the people of Israel found at Josh 24:14.

Eagles Build their nests in high places.

– They build their nest in the cleft of the rock, so they can keep a watch for anything that could harm them (1 Peter 5:8)

– We also should set high standards for ourselves, always watching our character. (1 Cor 15:33)

Eagles rise above the storms of life.

– Most birds flee a coming storm. The eagle takes to the sky and faces the storm by rising above it. (Rev. 2:10)

– Eagles prepare for the storm every day by preening their feathers. This cleans and seals them, making themselves ready for the day of crisis. We also can face our problems if we prepare each day. (Phil. 4:13)

Eagles look to the sun for strength.

– Eagles have two sets of eye lids that help them look directly into the sun. (You can have a regular eye and the eye of Faith). (Heb. 11:1)

– Three times when the eagle seeks out a high place and spreads its wings, it looks directly into the sun. These are:

1. When molting – look to Christ for change in your life. (Rom. 12:1)
2. When sick – Christ is the great physician. (Matthew 9:12)
3. When dying – In Christ there is no fear. (1 Cor. 15:55 and Hosh. 13:14)

7.19 What Goes Around, Comes Around

A true story -

His name was Fleming, and he was a poor Scottish farmer. One day, while trying to make a living for his family, he heard a cry for help coming from a nearby bog. He dropped his tools and ran to the bog. There, mired to his waist in black muck, was a terrified boy, screaming and struggling to free himself. Farmer Fleming saved the lad from what could have been a slow and terrifying death.

The next day, a fancy carriage pulled up to the Scotsman's sparse surroundings. An elegantly dressed nobleman stepped out and introduced himself as the father of the boy Farmer Fleming had saved. "I want to Repay you," said the nobleman. "You saved my son's life."

"No, I can't accept payment for what I did," the Scottish farmer replied, waving off the offer. At that moment, the farmer's own son came to the door of the family hovel.

"Is that your son?" the nobleman asked.

"Yes," the farmer replied proudly.

"I'll make you a deal. Let me take him and give him a good education. If the lad is anything like his father, he'll grow to a man you can be proud of."

And that he did. In time, Farmer Fleming's son graduated from St.Mary's Hospital Medical School in London, and went on to become known throughout the world as the noted Sir Alexander Fleming, the discoverer of Penicillin.

Years afterward, the nobleman's son was stricken with pneumonia. What saved him? Penicillin.

The name of the nobleman? Lord Randolph Churchill.

His son's name? Sir Winston Churchill.

Someone once said: What goes around comes around.

14.1 *The Presbyterian Parson*

John Witherspoon, a Scottish Presbyterian minister (born in 1723) and the only minister to sign the Declaration of Independence, taught the Christian political philosophies of John Locke to his students at Princeton College, where he served as its sixth president.

He influenced many of his students in the ideals of Christian truth, law and liberty. Among his

students were: one president, one vice-president, nine cabinet officers, 21 senators, 39 congressmen, three justices of the Supreme Court, twelve state governors and nine signers of the Declaration of Independence. Perhaps the most noted of all Witherspoon's students was James Madison, the fourth president of the United States.

So great was his influence in the Continental Congress where the Declaration of Independence was written that the British blamed the revolution on the Presbyterians: When the word of the signing of the Declaration reached England, Horace Walpole said in parliament, "Cousin America has run off with a Presbyterian Parson," an unmistakable reference to John Witherspoon.

The Adams Family of Boston

Samuel Adams (born 1722) has been called the "Father of the American War of Independence." He was the organizer of the Boston Tea Party and led his countrymen in many other causes for liberty. Samuel Adams said: "The rights of the colonists may be best understood by reading and carefully studying the institutes of the great law Giver and head of the Christian Church, which are to be found clearly written and promulgated in the New Testament."

John Adams (born in 1735) was one of the four signers assigned to the task of assisting Thomas Jefferson in the drafting of the document, and it is said that when he saw Jefferson's first draft without any mention of God, he insisted that God be made a party too.

John Quincy Adams, son of John and Abigail Adams, was only nine when his father and second cousin, Samuel Adams, signed the Declaration of Independence. He continued the strict application of Christian fundamentalist beliefs to the life of the new nation.

The following quote from John Quincy Adams, sixth president of the United States, serves as an additional insight and proof of the fervent Christian influence of the Adams family.

"Is it not that the Declaration of Independence first organized the social compact on the foundation of the Redeemer's mission upon earth? That it laid the cornerstone of human government upon the first precepts of Christianity?"

The writers of the Declaration declared to King George and to the world that they were trusting in the Christian God of the bible when they wrote: "*With a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor.*"

14.4 Our Lives, Our Fortunes, Our Sacred Honor

What Happened To Them?

Have you ever wondered what happened to the 56 men who signed the Declaration of Independence?

Five signers were captured by the British as traitors, and tortured before they died. Twelve had their homes ransacked and burned. Two lost their sons serving in the Revolutionary Army, another had two sons captured. Nine of the 56 fought and died from wounds or hardships of the Revolutionary War.

They signed and they pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor. What kind of men were they?

Twenty-four were lawyers and jurists. Eleven were merchants, nine were farmers and large plantation owners; men of means, well educated. But they signed the Declaration of Independence knowing full well that the penalty would be death if they were captured.

Carter Braxton of Virginia, a wealthy planter and trader, saw his ships swept from the seas by the British Navy. He sold his home and properties to pay his debts, and died in rags.

Thomas McKeam was so hounded by the British that he was forced to leave his family almost constantly. He served in the Congress without pay, and his family was kept in hiding. His possessions were taken from him, and poverty was his reward.

Vandals or soldiers looted the properties of Dillery, Hall, Clymer, Walton, Gwinnett, Heyward, Rutledge, and Middleton.

At the battle of Yorktown, Thomas Nelson, Jr., noted that the British General Cornwallis had taken over the Nelson home for his headquarters. He quietly urged General George Washington to open fire. The home was destroyed, and Nelson died bankrupt.

Francis Lewis had his home and properties destroyed. The enemy jailed his wife, and she died within a few months.

John Hart was driven from his wife's bedside as she was dying. Their 13 children fled for their lives. His fields and his gristmill were laid to waste. For more than a year he lived in forests and caves, returning home to find his wife dead and his children vanished. A few weeks later he died from exhaustion and a broken heart. Norris and Livingston suffered similar fates.

Such were the stories and sacrifices of the American Revolution. These were not wild eyed, rabble-rousing ruffians. They were soft-spoken men of means and education. They had security, but they valued liberty more. Standing tall, straight, and unwavering, they pledged: "For the support of this declaration, with firm reliance on the protection of the divine providence, we mutually pledge to each other, our lives, our fortunes, and our honor."

They gave you and me a free and independent America. The history books never told you a lot of what happened in the Revolutionary War. We didn't just fight the British. We were British subjects at that time and we fought our own government! Some of us take these liberties so much for granted. We shouldn't.

So, take a couple of minutes while enjoying your 4th holiday and silently thank these patriots. It's not much to ask for the price they paid.

Drama

I didn't call you, I'm Praying! Worship Skit

Instructions: The second person should be heard but not seen.

1. "Our Father who art in Heaven...
 2. Yes.
-
1. Don't interrupt me. I'm praying.
 2. But you called me.
-
1. Called you? I didn't call you. I'm praying. "Our Father who art in Heaven..."
 2. There, you did it again.
-
1. Did what?
 2. Called me. You said: "Our Father who art in Heaven." Here I am, what's on your mind?
-
1. But I didn't mean anything by it. I was, you know, just saying my prayers for the day. I always say the Lord's Prayer. It makes me feel good; kind of like getting a duty done.
 2. all right, go on.
-
1. "Hallowed by Thy name...
 2. Hold it. What did you mean by that?
-
1. By what?
 2. By "hallowed be Thy name?"
-
1. It means... It means... Good grief, I don't know what it means. How should I know? It's just part of the prayer. By the way, what does it mean?
 2. It means honored, holy, wonderful.
-
1. Hey, that makes sense. I never thought what hallowed meant before. "Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."
 2. Do you really mean that?
-
1. Sure, why not?
 2. What are you doing about it?
-
1. Doing? Nothing, I guess. I just think it would be kind of neat if you got control of everything down here like you have up there.
 2. Do I have control of you?
-
1. Well, I go to church.
 2. That isn't what I asked you. What about your attitudes? Do you really believe you are a person filled with my love? Do you treat others with respect?
-
1. Stop picking on me! I'm just as good as some of the rest of those phonies at church.
 2. Excuse me. I thought you were praying for my will to be done. If that is to happen, it will have to start with the ones who are praying for it. Like you, for example.
-
1. Oh all right. I guess I do have some hang-ups. Now that you mention it, I could probably name some.
 2. So could I.
-
1. I haven't thought about it very much until now. But I really would like to cut out some of those things. I would like to, you know, be really free.

(continued ...)

2. Good. Now we're getting somewhere. Well we'll work together, you and I. Some victories can truly be won. I'm proud of you.
1. Look, Lord, I need to finish up here. This is taking a lot longer than it usually does. "Give us this day our daily bread."
2. You need to cut out some of the bread. You're overweight as it is.
1. Hey, wait a minute! What is this? Here I was doing my religious duty, and all of sudden You break in and remind me of all my hang-ups.
2. Praying is a dangerous thing. You could wind up changed, you know. That's what I'm trying to get across to you. You called me, and here I am. It's too late to stop now. Keep praying, I'm interested in the next part of your prayer... (pause) ... well, go on.
1. I'm scared to.
2. Scared? Of what?
1. I know what you'll say.
2. Try me and see.
1. "Forgive us our trespasses [debts] as we forgive those who trespass against us [our debtors]."
2. What about Linda?
1. See? I knew it! I knew you would bring her up. Why, Lord, she told lies about me, cheated me out of some money. She never paid back that debt she owes me. I've sworn to get even with her.
2. But what about your prayer?
1. I didn't mean it.
2. Well, at least you're honest. But it's not much fun carrying that load of bitterness around inside, is it?
1. No. But I'll feel better soon as I get even. Boy, have I got some plans for old Linda. She'll wish she never did me any harm.
2. You won't feel any better. You'll feel worse. Revenge isn't sweet. Think of how unhappy you are already. But I can change all that.
1. You can? How?
2. Forgive Linda as I have forgiven you. You may lose the money, but you will have settled your heart.
1. Oh, You're right. You always are. And more than I want revenge on Linda, I want to be right with You (pause) ... (sigh) All right, all right. I forgive her. Please help her to find the right road in life. She's bound to be awfully miserable now that I think about it. Anybody who goes around doing the things that she does to others has to be out of it. Some way, somehow, show her the right way. And Lord, help me to forget it too.
2. There now! Wonderful! How do you feel?
1. Hmmm, well not bad. Not bad at all. In fact, I feel pretty great!
2. You're not through with your prayer. Go on.
1. Oh, all right. "And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil"
2. Good! Good! I'll do that. Just don't put yourself in a place where you can be tempted.
1. What do you mean by that?
2. Quit hanging around with that one group which is always getting into trouble. Change some of your friendships. Some of your so-called friends are beginning to get to you. They'll have you completely involved in wrong things before long. Don't be fooled. They advertise they're having fun, but for you it would be ruin. Don't use me for an escape hatch.
1. I don't understand.

(continued ...)

2. Sure you do. You've done it a lot of times. You get in bad situations, you get into trouble and then you come running to Me "Lord, help me out of this mess."

1. I'm sorry Lord. I really am. Up until now I thought that if I just prayed the Lord's Prayer every day, then I could do what I liked. I didn't expect anything to happen like that you really listen.
2. Go ahead and finish your prayer.

1. "For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours, now and forever."
2. Do you know what would bring me glory? What would really make me happy?

1. No, but I'd like to know. I want to please You. I can see what a mess I've made of my life and I can see how neat it would be to really be one of Your followers.
2. You just answered the question.

1. I did?
2. Yes. The thing that would bring Me glory is to have people like you truly love Me. And I see that happening between us. There's no telling what we can do together.

1. Lord, let's see what we can make of me, O.K.?
2. Yes, let's see.

(Courtesy of Sr. Connie Piska)