



## Ranger Emblems

# Christian Life

### Tips for the Christian Life Emblem

**Do not lose the importance of this emblem**, especially requirement #1. This is very important as some of your boys may not know the Lord as their personal savior yet. This emblem gives you a great opportunity to help bring them to Christ. It will be important however to be certain to make the learning experience fun and exciting. By doing so, your lesson will have greater impact and will be remembered much longer.

It would be a good idea to review the “7 Tips for New Teachers” for this and all emblems. You can find it on page 16 of this resource volume.

### Resources for Christian Life

Your Bible, the Internet, The Salvation Army Supplies and Purchasing Department (Trade) and your local Christian Book Store are great resources for this emblem. They will all have excellent materials, such as teacher help books, devotionals, journals and other information that will be helpful for you in the planning and implementation of this emblem. Listed below are some that you may find especially useful.

The definitions for most of the words in requirement #1 can be found in the “International Children’s Bible Dictionary” from “Word Publishing” written by Lynn Waller. This particular dictionary not only gives the definition but also gives scripture references relating to the word or subject.

“The Children’s Worker’s Encyclopedia of Bible Teaching Ideas - New Testament” from “Group Publishing” combines games, projects, parties and many other things with a short devotional which makes the learning much more fun. It is for requirement #1 as it has lessons on Romans 6: 23 (page 109) and 2Corinthians 11: 16-29 (page 127) which deals with the difficulties we face as Christians. It also has a lesson on The Lord’s Prayer, Matthew 6: 9-13 (page 16) which would be helpful for requirement #2. This book and “The Children’s Worker’s Encyclopedia of Bible Teaching Ideas - Old Testament” from the same publishing company are great books to have on hand for any occasion.

“The Kid’s Devotional Bible” and “The Kid’s Devotional Bible Journal” both from “Zondervan Publishing House” are great resources for requirement #2 and requirement #3. These are designed to work together but work individually just as well.

In requirement #4, the boys are asked to write down things they are thankful to God for. The second page of “The Kid’s Devotional Bible Journal” has a unique way of asking the

same question which might be useful. It asks you to make a list of things God has done for you that you can brag about.

Also in regard to requirement #4, some good examples from scripture would be Jesus, Paul and in particular, Philip (Acts 8: 29-35). Another scripture reference would be Mark 16: 15 (The Great Commission).

“Hands -on Service Ideas for Children’s Ministry” from “Group Publishing” is an excellent resource for unique and fun projects in conjunction with requirement #5.

The “Life Application Bible” (NIV) from “Tyndale House Publishing” has a chart on page 52 which shows the “Profile of a True Servant”. This could also be used with requirement #5.

Of Course the best example of a Servant in the Bible is Jesus. Some good scripture references in regard to requirement #5 are Mark 10: 44,45 and Matthew 25: 34-40.

Other resources that are good just to have on hand would be:

- **“Show Me - Devotions for Leaders to Teach Kids”** from Group Publishing and written by Susan L. Lingo.
- **“Quick Relief for Sunday School Teachers”** also from Group Publishing,
- **“Do-Votions”** from Concordia Publishing and written by Linda Bredehoft.
- **“52 Ways to Teach Children to Share the Gospel”** from Rainbow Books and written by Barbara Hibschan, M.Ed.

## **Christian Life Devotional**

### **Week One - Salvation**

Text: John 3: 16,17 (NIV)

*“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him”.*

Have the boys relate an incident when they were rescued from danger or act out a scene from a recent rescue in the T.V. news or from the newspaper.

**Ask: How did you feel when you were finally sure that you had been saved?**

Salvation means being rescued from some sort of danger, possibly even injury or death. In the Bible, salvation usually means being rescued or saved from sin and its punishment. While we can save someone from danger, only God can save someone from sin. He did

this by sending his Son to take the punishment for our sin. As we learned while working on our emblem, Romans 6: 23 (NIV) says, *“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord”*.

**Say: God loved you enough to want to save you but he didn’t stop there. He followed through and actually gave up that which was dearest to Him, his Son, so that you could some day go to live with him in heaven.**

Have the boys make a list of at least 3 sins that Jesus took to the cross for them personally (these don’t have to be shared with the group).

**Ask: How does it make you feel to know that Jesus died for these sins?** (They may share that they feel sad or maybe even happy). Let them know that they can and should feel just as happy or relieved as they did when they were saved from danger in the earlier exercise. The difference however is that being saved from sin is much more important and long lasting.

**Ask: Has Jesus saved you from your sin? Are you showing Him you’re thankful by trying to live the way he would want you to?** If not, let them know that you or the Corps officer can talk to them right now if they would like.

## **Christian Life Devotional**

### **Week Two - The Lord’s Prayer**

Text: Matthew 6: 9-13 (NIV)

*“Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one”*.

Have the boy’s draw (free hand) a perfect circle on a piece of paper. Then give each of them a cup and have them draw another perfect circle by tracing around the bottom of the cup.

**Ask: Was it easier to draw the first circle or was it easier when you had a pattern to follow.**

“The Lord’s Prayer” was given to the Disciples by Jesus. It was given so that they would know how to pray and is a **pattern** that we can use when we pray.

To pray, “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name” represents God as being as loving and caring as our father. Someone who is personal with us and that we can easily go to whenever we want or need to. At the same time, God is someone we need to give honor and respect to.

“Your kingdom come” refers to God being the ruler, not just of our own hearts and lives but of the heavens as well - just as a king rules over the people in his kingdom.

“Your will be done” is an admission that we should be doing what God would want us to do, even if we don’t understand why at the time. It also represents the want for God’s purposes to be accomplished both now and in the future.

“Give us today our daily bread” acknowledges the fact that we need to rely on God to take care of our physical needs, the same way we rely on our parents to give us what we need. It is foolish to think that we can provide for ourselves. We must rely on God.

“Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors” makes it clear that we cannot expect God to forgive us of our sins and take care of us if we are not willing to do the same for the people that we come in contact with in our lives.

“And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one” makes it clear to us that God doesn’t tempt us but sometimes he allows us to be tempted in order to strengthen us and that we need to rely on him in order to withstand Satan’s attacks.

**Say: It is important to pray. If you need something from your parents, you ask for it. Although they may know that you love them, they still like to here you say it. They need to know that you honor them and have respect for them. In the same way, God needs and wants to talk to you and for you to talk to him. He also wants to provide for your needs.**

**Ask: Do you talk to God every day.**

**Say: Let’s talk to God right now** (say “The Lord’s Prayer” in closing).

## **Christian Life Devotional**

### **Week Three - Testimony (Witness)**

Text: Mark 16: 15 (NIV)

*He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation”.*

Text: Acts 1: 8 (NIV)

*“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth”.*

Bring a picture to your meeting (it can be of anything or anyone). Don't let any of the boys see the picture. Choose two boys from the group and have only one of the boys study the picture very closely while not letting the other boy see it at all. After the one boy has studied the picture, have him return it to you. Have each of the boys, starting with the one who has not seen the picture, stand in front of the group and describe what was in the picture. After each boy has described what was in the picture, show the picture to the group. Ask: **Which boy did a better job of describing the picture and did you believe him?** Obviously, the boy who had not seen the picture or was not a witness to the picture, could not describe it where the other boy could because he had seen or been a witness to it.

Now have each of the boys write down three fun and exciting things that has happened to them in the last couple of months. Once they have done this, ask each of them to share with the group one of these experiences.

Just as we are excited about great things that have happened to us, we should be excited about what the Lord has done for us and we should want to share that experience with the people we come in contact with. Also, we learn from our text for today, that the Lord will give us the strength and courage (through the Holy Spirit) that we need in order to do so (Acts 1: 8).

Not only should we want to tell others about Christ, but we are told that it is our duty to tell others about Christ (Mark 16: 15).

As we learned earlier in the exercise with explaining the picture, we can't share what we haven't seen or experienced.

Ask: **Have you experienced Christ? Would you like to experience Christ?** Say: **If you would like to know how to experience Christ you can talk to me or the Corps officer after we pray.**

## **Christian Life Devotional**

### **Week Four - Christian Service**

Text: Proverbs 20: 11 (NIV)

*"Even a Child is known by his actions, by whether his conduct is pure and right."*

Select three boys from the group. Take them out of the room and tell them that they are all part of a construction crew. Then tell them that they are to walk out in front of the rest of the group, announce **"I'm a member of the construction crew"** then pretend to build a house, but have one of the boys just stand and watch as the other two work (this will be even more effective if the two boys that are working actually have tools and the other boy does not). Have them do this for about one minute then have them sit down with the rest of the group.

Ask: **Did all three boys say they were part of the construction crew? Did they all act like they were a part of the crew? Did they all have the proper tools?** (only ask this question if you have given the two boys actual tools)

Jesus was the perfect example of letting His actions speak just as loud as his words. If you read John 13: 4,5 you can see one example of where Jesus took on the role of the servant and washed his disciples feet.

It's one thing to say that you are a Christian but just saying it isn't enough. We need to let our actions speak for us. Just as we learned last week in our devotion time that we need to tell everyone about Christ and share our experience, these same experiences should be seen in our actions and deeds.

Ask: **Do people see Christ in your actions? Do you serve others just as Christ served?**

Give the boys an opportunity to think about these questions for a minute or so, then ask: **If the answer to either of these questions is no, is it because you don't have Christ living in you?**

Say: **If this is the case then don't be afraid to talk with me or the Corps officer before you leave today.**

