

CHIEFS: Larger, bold-print words are to be spoken to boys - fine print is instructions for you. Place emphasis on underlined or capitalized words. Always prepare before meetings any ‘props’ you will need. Rehearse when possible – always pray!

**Lesson 1: “Bound To Do Good”**

(As boys are seated for devotions, select one boy larger than most and another one a good bit smaller than him. Place them beside you at the front.) Begin something like this: **“Men...we will all face challenges in life that will be hard for us to handle alone! Like these two fellows. This shorter one [or say his name] represents YOU. This other guy can be some of life’s biggest problems. What happens when something this BIG pushes around someone this SMALL?** [Have the big guy shove (gently) the little one. They can do it more than once but don’t let it get ‘carried away’] **Yes, LIFE can get pretty tough at times! That’s why you need good friends – fellow Christians – who will stand with you and help get you through it!** [Say this while picking several fair-sized boys to come and stand with the ‘little guy’. Either have them stand back-to-back with arms interlocked or to stand behind him, leaning in with a shoulder to brace the ‘little guy’.] **Ok, now let’s see what happens** [When big boy tries to move the ‘pack’ he should just lean in the press steadily.] **But, when you need the best help of all, just call out to JESUS** [tell the ‘little guy’ to call out “JESUS –HELP ME!”...Then, you step between him and the ‘big guy’, probably with your arms crossed as the ‘mighty protector’. Be dramatic but DON’T let it become a ‘shoving match’.] **Isn’t it great to know such a Big God who can help us with our Big Problems?”** [Have all boys sit down.]

**“Life can get tough for many of us, but it sure is good to know there is HELP when we need it...from fellow Christians, but especially from the LORD. There is a song that says, ‘Bind us together, Lord, bind us together...with cords that cannot be broken. Bind us together, Lord, bind us together...bind us together with love.’** [If you know the song and think your boys will be willing, sing it now one or more times.] **We are going to be learning some very useful knots that will help us in many important ways. But just knowing the names of knots...or even how to tie them...does no good until you TIE THEM!! In the same way, it does no good to say - ‘There is a God’ - unless you meet Him and know Him! How about right now? Would you like to ‘bind’ together with the Lord? To let him HOLD you, HELP you, keep you from falling LOOSE or GETTING AWAY? Then let’s PRAY right now!!”** [PRAYER]

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**Lesson 2: “DON’T LET IT GET AWAY”**

**“In our meeting tonight [or, ‘today’] we learned about special knots that are used to keep lines from ‘getting away’ from us. What do we call them?** [Answer: End Knots or Stopper Knots] **That’s right – even though these are simple to tie they can sure save us a lot of trouble later!! Remember the picture of the Slip Knot?** [Tell boys to look at their lesson notes] **What was it being used for?** [Answer: to tie a boat to a dock] **Yes, to keep our boat from getting away! If we don’t tie the knot ‘right’ then what might we have to do?** [Possible answers: ‘jump in and swim after it’ -or- ‘borrow another boat to go get it’]

“Wow. It can be a lot of trouble if we don’t keep things secure, isn’t it?!? And that’s what our memory verse is trying to tell us. Let us say it together: ‘My son, keep thy father’s commandment, and forsake not the law of thy mother. Bind them continually upon thine heart, and tie them about thy neck – Proverbs 6:20 & 21.’ Knowing God’s rules and doing them is so important you certainly don’t want to let THEM get away!!

“What do you think you should do with God’s rules? You know, some people put the Ten Commandments on the walls of their homes just so they won’t forget them. God told the Israelite people, just before they were going to the land He promised them, that they were to ‘put them in their heart, and teach them diligently to their children. And talk about them as they sat in their homes, walked along the way, laid down and rose up. Even bind them to their hand – like tying little copies on for you to see every day. He also said to write them on the posts of their house and on their gates!’ [from Deuteronomy 6:6-9] That sure seems like a good way to make sure you never forget to obey His word!!

Maybe the best way is to put as much of God’s word into your heart and follow Him every day. Let’s pray now and ask the Lord to help us do just that!! [PRAYER]

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### Lesson 3: “UNTIE THE DONKEY”

“When Jesus entered Jerusalem for the last time, he rode a donkey while his disciples (and a big, happy crowd) cried ‘HOSANNA’ and threw palm branches along in front of him to keep the dust down! But where did the donkey come from?? Well, as Jesus and his disciples were getting near to Jerusalem they stopped again by the hillside called Mt. Olives. There, he sent two of his disciples to the village nearby to get a donkey...some Bibles call it a ‘colt’...that was tied near a house door. [Chief: read to yourself beforehand Mark’s account in Mk 11:1-6 in case you want to add any details]

“Now...what kind of knot do you think was holding that donkey there, probably tied to a fence or a post! [Let boys answer with ‘Pile Hitch’, ‘Clove Hitch’, or even ‘Two Half Hitch’...others are possible] Isn’t it a good thing that the disciples knew how to untie the knot?! Boy, things would have not gone well if those disciples didn’t know their knots!! But they did – and they brought the donkey to Jesus – and our Lord rode triumphantly into town to begin his last week of teaching and healing until it was time to present his life to the cross to pay for our sins. Praise the Lord!

“Knowing our knots well will always be important since you never know when you’ll need that skill. But something else you need to know very well – and that is The Lord and how to call on Him!! And just like the knots you’re learning, you need ‘practice’ to get it ‘perfect’...that’s why prayer everyday and church every week is important to us all! Let’s pray and ask the Lord to help us get both our ‘knots’ and our ‘knowledge’ of Him RIGHT and TIGHT!!

[PRAYER]

**Lesson 4: “THE BEST ROPE”**

“Many years ago there was a man who lived in a small town in Europe. He had his own business making a special kind of hand-made rope. He worked so extra hard to make sure the quality was very good – strong, with a fine weave of fibers – that people came from far away just to buy from him! The orders increased so much that he had to hire additional workers. But still they couldn’t meet the demands because his special rope required so much more time and care to make. So, he began to do what many people do – take shortcuts to save time! And the quality of his rope began to go down, though the amount of sales stayed up because his popular name was on every rope. You know – that’s how it is with some people: they start having a lot of success, perhaps making much more money, but they let their standards go down and begin to settle for less than their best!

“Well, this man finally decided to enjoy his success by taking a cruise around the world. After being at sea only a few days a storm came up and began tossing the boat. Day after day it was so uncomfortable that everyone stayed inside their cabins except this rope maker who finally ventured out for ‘just a little fresh air’. But suddenly, a huge wave **STRUCK THE BOAT** and washed this man **OVERBOARD** into the sea!! One of the ship’s crew saw this and grabbed a lifering with a long length of rope, threw it to the man, and began to pull him to safety. **BUT THE ROPE BROKE AND THE MAN WAS LOST** into the terrible, raging storm!! The crewman could not understand why this happened until someone else pointed out the irony of it: that the very rope which failed had been made by that man who was lost!

“The Apostle Paul said in Colossians chapter 3 that ‘...whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men!’ [Colossians 3:23] Do you think that if he knew it would be Jesus coming in next to buy some rope that the ‘Rope Maker’ would’ve made something of lesser quality? And this time his life counted on it!! When it comes to doing things right God says in Jeremiah 29:13, “And ye shall seek me and find me when ye shall search for me with all your heart.”!! God deserves our best and that is what we give Him when we give Him all our heart!” [PRAYER]

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**Lesson 5: “HEAVEN’S LIFELINE”**

“A deep-sea diver was lowered into the ocean to inspect the wreckage of a ship. The further down he went...the darker the water became...until he could barely see more than a few feet in front of him! Fortunately, he had a lifeline that attached him to the ship up on the surface. Now, what kind of knot do you think they had attached to him? [Many answers are possible – let boys suggest several...such as Bowline, Two Half Hitch, etc.] He also had a radio inside his helmet for calling topsides.

“As he worked down in that dark, quiet place **SUDDENLY** a huge octopus slipped up from behind and wrapped all of its eight legs around the diver!! He was in great danger and could not get free!!

All he could do was call his ship for help. As they steadily pulled him towards the surface, and the water began to get brighter from the sunlight above, the octopus finally let go and sank away into the darkness below!

“That diver was safe because, when he was in trouble, he called for ‘help from above’!! Now, isn’t that what we’re supposed to do – ask God for help?? So...what do you think is OUR ‘radio’? [Answer should be ‘prayer’] **And what is our lifeline?** [Answers may include: ‘faith’, ‘God’s help’. ‘God’s Word’.] **What do you think could’ve happened if the diver hadn’t called for help and just tried to fight the octopus on his own?** [‘run out of air’ - or- ‘octopus would strangle him’]

“So, we must always call for God’s help first and never become ‘disconnected’ from His ‘lifeline!’”  
[PRAYER]

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**Lesson 6: “A LIFE ALL KNOTTED UP”**

[Have one of your practice ropes – at least 3ft long – ready at hand as you start this devotion]

“You know, a lot people say something like this: ‘Your life is what you make of it’. There are a lot of different things they might mean with that (such as ‘you should set the right goals for yourself’ or ‘whatever happens, it’s up to you to be happy’.) But the truth is – it is up to you to make the right decisions, take the right path, do the right thing!

“Let’s say your life is like this rope. [Hold the rope up between your two extended hands - or - with one hand allow the rope to just touch the floor (if boys are seated on floor)] **From beginning to end it seems like a nice, straight line – doesn’t it? But what if sometime early, maybe at the age you are now, you do something bad (or could become bad) – then it’s like putting a knot in your ‘life’.** [Now tie a Half knot or Figure 8 knot near one end of the rope.] **And, instead of making things right (like repenting to the Lord) you just go on and soon do something else as bad (or worse!!)** [Tie another knot near the first] **And another...and another...** [Continue tying knots after each “another” until the rope is less than half its original length.]

[Now, hold the line up for all to see (if boys are seated on floor, try to hold line with its top at about the same height you first showed it so that boys will see it is obviously much shorter than it was)] **So...a life that was ‘long’ in quality, ‘long’ in potential good, maybe even ‘long’ in ‘years’...is now a whole lot shorter, isn’t it? EVERY TIME WE SIN – WE LOSE – don’t we? How many of you would like to have a long, straight life, without ‘knots’ or anything that would take away from it? Then let’s ask the Lord like King David did in the book of Psalms. Repeat after me: ‘Lead me, O Lord, in thy righteousness...’** [Boys repeat] **“...make thy way straight before my face”** [Boys repeat] [from Psalms 5:8]

[PRAYER]

[SPECIAL NOTE: These six devotions are to be used with both Apprentice and Journeymen boys. For new Sites, where Journeymen begin Rope Skill work alongside the Apprentices but then continue on their own the lessons for Skill Patch achievement, additional devotions will be provided in those Kits.]