

Remember that the final part of your meeting is not a “winding down” but a “wrapping up”, “bringing together”, “grand finale”, and anything else you may wish to call the most important part of your time with your boys. Below are suggested devotions which compliment your lessons and lead to a meaningful closing prayer. But also consider sharing from your own experiences, or have other men come in (even some of your capable boys.) The important thing is to “*put all ya got into it!*” This is the most likely part of your meeting where decisions will be made for the Lord. Be sure to read (and practice) well before your ‘Big Night’. You want your presentation to strike a ‘home run’!! Words are in large print to make them easy to read as you share. But putting them to memory will always be more effective! Underlined words should have a little extra ‘drama’ (emphasis) put into them. Use a different voice, if possible, for words that are in **bold**. Notes in brackets are suggestions for you – Don’t Read Them Out Loud. Most of all, whoever does the sharing needs to put their whole heart into it!!

## “NO GREATER LOVE”

Jesus said, “Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.” (Does anyone know where that is in the Bible? <<answer: John 15:13 >>) Did Jesus do that for us? Did we deserve it? Definitely not!! But he did it! The Apostle Paul said that “...scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet ‘maybe’ for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commended His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us” (that’s in Romans 5, verses 7 & 8) Now that was real love!!

There is a story about two Chinese brothers who lived in San Francisco, California (in the U.S.) back in the early 1900’s. The older brother really loved his younger brother! But the younger brother was always doing something wrong, and this one day he was gambling in an ally. A fight broke out and this younger brother killed a man with his knife. With blood all over his clothes, he ran home, changed (leaving the clothes in a closet), and went to hide somewhere.

His older brother came home and found the clothes, figuring out that his younger brother had done something really bad. The cops were

told which house the younger brother had gone to and, as they came to the front door, the older brother put on the bloody clothes. Why do you think he did that? That's right. He put the evidence of his brother's sin on himself. The police took him, tried him, and then they executed him.

When the younger brother found out he was heartbroken and went to confess to the authorities. But they said the crime had already been paid for and they would have to let him go free!

You know...that's what Jesus did for us – He took our place, paid our penalty, so we can go free. But we must open our hearts to Him, let Him in, and promise to never let this happen again! (PRAYER)

## **“THE CHRISTIAN BEAR”**

What is SIN? [Ask your boys, allowing for a variety of answers] It is doing anything we're not supposed to do. And where do we find out about what we're not supposed to do? [Again, answers can vary such as the Bible, Sunday school, from parents or the preacher, at Lifebuilder Boys] The important thing: when you are told what not to do then don't do it!! You're the one who gets 'hurt'!

[In telling this story, be sure to stay 'animated', act out the characters as much as possible] There was this young boy, who had just joined Lifebuilder Boys, and they all went on a camping trip (his first) into the woods of North America. After they got all the tents up and firewood collected, their Crew Chief said, **“Now all you boys – be sure to stay close to camp, it's late in the day and a lot of animals live here!!”**

Everyone went off in different directions and here stood this young man with nothing to do. He heard a sound coming from bushes nearby and decided to check it out. The sound kept moving further into the woods so he followed it! But then, after several minutes, he realized he was [now say in a very concerned voice]... lost!!

What was worse – a loud noise came from behind him and when he turned...there it was...a big, giant, mean BEAR!! And it stood on its hind legs and roared - **GRRRRRRRR!!!!** Well, this little guy started running, but as he did...he kept praying the whole time [try to make a little boy's panicked voice] **“Please, Lord – let this be a Christian Bear!”**

Now, I don't know why he prayed that, but he just kept doing it while that big mean bear kept chasing him and growling **“GRRRRRRRR!!”** When the little boy came to a tree, he climbed it and sat on a limb. The bear grabbed the tree and shook it and kept growling, **“GRRRRRR!”** The little boy still prayed, **“Pleeeeeeaaase, Looorrrdd, let this be a Christian Bear!!!!”**

Well, the tree limb broke and the little boy fell at the feet of the bear. He quickly got on his knees and kept praying.....But.....after a couple minutes...nothing happened!! The little boy looked up...and you know what?? THE BEAR WAS PRAYING TOO!! [Now, in your deepest voice, slow and carefully, say] **“Dear Lord...I thank you for this food that I am about to receive.”** [Everyone should have a good laugh here – you, too!]

There are a lot of things we can learn from this funny story. How many of you think he should've prayed for something else like, “Save Me Lord”? Do you think we should pray all the time so if something does happen, and we really do need the Lord's help, we will know just how to ask God for that help? But since we have been talking about sin (obeying the Lord, your parents and your leaders) maybe the best lesson here is: **DO WHAT YOU'RE TOLD...especially if it is in the Bible!!!**  
(PRAYER)

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## **“I BELIEVE I CAN FLY”**

Some people say, “It really doesn’t matter what you believe as long as you believe IT with all your heart.” Do you think that’s true? [Just head shaking is enough] What if someone says, [say loudly] “IF I FLAP MY ARMS HARD ENOUGH – I CAN FLY!” [Be sure to act this out wildly with arm motions]

And then they go to the top of a very tall building, start flapping their arms real fast and.....step off!! What do you think is going to happen? [Pause for responses] No, they will “think” they’re flying – until they hit the ground!! You see, there are a lot of people who believe all kinds of wrong things...And they think they’re “right” because nothing has happened YET!!

When do you think they will know the truth for sure? [Answer: after this life] Just because you believe something is true....I mean, REALLY BELIEVE...won’t make it true! The Bible says in Proverbs 14:12 “There is a way that seemeth right unto a man but the end thereof is the ways of death.” Did you notice that the verse only says it “seems right”! But what is “TRUTH”? Jesus said of himself, “I am the Way, the TRUTH, and the Life.” So...it only helps if you believe something that is true, not something you want to be ‘true’!!

Do you know someone who may believe something that’s not true? We should pray for them right now. And I need to ask, have you believed something, too, that now you know isn’t true? Would you like to just get it out of the way right here and now? Then, that’s what we’re going to pray about first! (PRAYER)

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## **“WHO WANTS TO GO TO HEAVEN?”** [Have Luke 12:16-21 ready to read]

It was just before the end of children’s Sunday school class, and it had been a really good one all about where God lives and how we can go and live there, too – with Him – when this life is over! So, the teacher decided to ask her young students with a real excited voice, “HOW MANY WANT TO GO HEAVEN?” Every hand anxiously rose .....except one.....little Bobby in the back corner! When she saw that, the teacher asked again but...got the same result!! So...as the class ended...and children filed out...the teacher laid a hand on Bobby’s shoulder and gently asked, “Bobby, when I asked the children ‘who wants to go to heaven’ you didn’t raise your hand. I asked twice, and still you didn’t raise your hand. Don’t you want to go to heaven?” Bobby beamed up and happily said, [Say very happily to sound funny] “Well, yeah...sure...I want to go to heaven!! But I thought you meant right now ...and I got a ball game this afternoon!” [Should be laughter]

Isn’t it true that, most of the time, people just don’t think about heaven? When do you think people will think about it? [Answers will vary – usually when you’re old or in danger.] In fact, if I asked each of you “How long do you plan to live?” all of you will probably say, “A...Long...Time!!” That’s what everyone is counting on! But the truth is we just don’t know! Jesus once told this story... [**Chief, read: Luke 12:16-21**]

Wouldn’t it be better if we live each day with Jesus and for Jesus? And that all our sins are forgiven today, taking no chances about tomorrow? Let’s pray together now...about anything that might be in our hearts...that might keep us from being ready to go to heaven whenever God decides it’s ‘time to leave.’

(PRAYER)

## “LET GO AND LET GOD”

[You will need a chair beside you, turned around backwards] A man was walking along a very narrow path, high in the mountains (maybe somewhere like Switzerland where the mountains go through the clouds) and as he got near the top the wind started blowing pretty hard. [You want to be standing with at least one hand out to the side, as though trying to balance against the mountain]

**“Wow. I’m up so high – all I see now are the tops of these clouds.”**

[Shake body and swirl hand as though starting to lose balance] **“Whoa...I wasn’t expecting that gust of wind. I better be...”** [This time wind blows him off the ledge and as he ‘falls’ he grabs a branch (back of chair) and now is supposedly dangling on the side of the mountain]

**“Boy, was I lucky this branch was here ‘cause I know it’s a lonnnnggg way down there!!!** [He looks up] **But how am I gonna get back up there?”** [Looks around...even stares at some of the boys. Then looks up and cries out]

**“Help!! Anybody, help!!!!”** [Now looks again at the boys though not actually talking to them] **“That’s right...there’s nobody! I’m all alone!!** [After a brief pause, looks up again and even more frantically yells]

**“Helllllp!!!!”** Suddenly, a very deep voice answers, **“I can help”** [This is supposed to be God. Another person could do this voice from out of view or on a microphone but the voice should be deep and assuring.]

The man is surprised and asks **“Who are you...and how did you get up here?”** **“I’m always ‘here’...I am the LORD”**

Now the guy is a little ‘skeptical’ and says [smiling], **“The Lord...okay...so, can you help me?”** **“Of course – but you’ll have to trust me”** **“Oh, I trust you, Lord”** **“Then – Let – Go!”** [The man stares out at the boys with a blank, startled look for a moment. Then he looks up again and cries...] **“IS THERE ANYBODY ELSE UP THERE????”** [This should bring a lot of laughter]

That is funny, isn’t it? But that’s how so many people are! They want God’s help but they want it their way!! I will tell you that, when the man finally does let go he falls only a couple feet through the clouds, landing on a small road that was always right there, just underneath him. You know what? He gets mad - as though God had not told him

everything. What does God answer? **“Faith is not knowing how things will turn out...Faith is ‘Just Let Go And Let God’** How about you? Are you willing to just “let go” and “let God” do things the way He wants to? In your life? With your life? Then let’s pray and tell Him so!!  
(PRAYER)

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## **“LET GOD SAVE YOU”**

Ok, Journeymen: what does Ephesians 2 verse 8 and 9 say? [“For by grace are ye saved through faith and that not of yourselves. It is the gift of God. Not by works lest any man should boast.”] Is that verse telling us that it doesn’t matter what we do, that doing good things (right things) isn’t important? [Let boys respond, but answers should all be “no”] Of course we need to do good things. But our good will never be ‘good enough’! We all need the Lord to save us!

There is a story told about a band of gypsies who lived in Europe some many years ago. Do you know what gypsies are? [Your choice if you want to let a boy or two try to answer] They were people who lived in wagons and travelled from town to town, doing little shows and things to make a small living. They were poor but very close to each other. One day, as the wagons crossed a small bridge over a stream rushing with water from the morning’s hard rain, the front wheel of a wagon carrying an elderly woman slipped off the edge and the whole thing went over the side, into the water. The poor old woman struggled to stay afloat as the water began to carry her away. Her grandson, a strong young man, was in the next wagon...and when he saw her go into the water...he dove in to save her. But when he finally reached her, and tried to take hold... she...instead struggled with him, thinking that it was she who needed to save his life!!

Because she would not yield, and let him do what he needed to do for her, they were both going to drown. So the young man finally had to let go, push away, and sadly see her carried off in the rushing water never to be seen again!

This is a sad story. But so is every story about every person whom God loves so much, and wants so much to save, but instead of letting Him people just want to do everything their way!

How about you? This is our last devotion for our personal evangelism series. You are soon to earn your Award Patch as “ready” to be a “soul-winner.” But what about your own soul? Are you “winning”...or could you still be on the “losing side”? It’s time to let the Lord pull you from the ‘raging waters’ and bring you ‘home safe’. You gotta ‘Let Go and Let God’. Remember? So, let’s pray!

(PRAYER)