

Crew Chief: You are in a very challenging position - working with boys in the wide age range of Journeymen and Journeymen Senior Class. Their interests and perspectives (based on what life experiences they have had so far) will be quite varied from adolescence (grade 5) to young adulthood (grades 11 & 12.) This is why, if possible, the two age groups of these ranks should be divided for this study. With most Skill themes it will not be necessary. But this is a very intimate subject of one's own spiritual condition and need. You want to provide the best opportunity to 'win every soul'! And that is the purpose of this course – not just to reach the neighborhood but, most importantly, reach the boy sitting next to you!!

Lessons may be a bit lengthy for your limited time (especially if interaction with boys becomes 'constructive conversations'.) Use your own judgment: you may choose to cover half in class and assign the rest for home or, preferably, split each lesson into two meetings. Take your time and make it good! Also, remember that your voice with emphasis will drive each point home! A steady pace can get this done – just know the lesson first (a last minute glance beforehand or, worse, your first 'read along' in front of the boys will not do!!) Dedicate the time (usually about 15 minutes) to read it through rehearsal style (out loud is better) and you'll find that the next time (in front of the boys) goes so much smoother.

Each lesson has memory verses which may or may not be new to the boys. A verse is only really learned when it can be written without struggle. Tell the boys that these are life-saving words! They should want to know them - well. If these verses are already known, then a boy should use the option of learning another on the page (especially ones in bold print.) Praise any who do apply themselves as being unselfish and truly concerned Christians. At the very least, where boys have their own personal Bibles, they should be strongly encouraged to place a mark by these scriptures or underline them (a highlighter pen is good) as well as add them as 'quick reference notes' on an available page (perhaps inside a cover.) This can be a sufficient substitute for memorization requirements for boys who may, for a variety of reasons, have difficulty with memorizing. Remind your young men that Psalms 119:11 says, "Thy word have I hid in my heart that I might not sin against thee."

LESSON 1 People Need The Lord

As you open, ask this question: "**Why do we need the Lord?**" (Let boys offer a few assorted answers.) Then continue to read the rest of the first paragraph (be sure to stress each underlined or **BOLD PRINT** word.) Continue on with the second paragraph [If time will allow, read quickly the passage here in Luke. Will be effective to do so but not always necessary.]

At the end of this paragraph point out the image of the beggar and ask, "**What do you think is his biggest need?**" (Let a few boys comment.) Then say, "**But Jesus wants to do so much more for all of us.**" Have boys read out loud one of each of these lines from Isaiah (begin with "Open prisons of the bound") and maybe give a simple description of what it is referring to.

Now read on PAGE 2 the next two paragraphs, ending with the verse from Matthew 16. Ask your crew about the drawing of the two boys. Point out that those are Bibles they're reading...but what is all that other 'stuff'? Say something like, "**Maybe even some church people get the idea of what is 'most important' all mixed up, too?!**"

Draw their attention to the last illustration – of a man trying to 'make the jump'. Remind them that when the Bible says, "All...have fallen short..." (Romans 3:23 here) it doesn't matter if you can jump 'farther' than all the other guys, short is still too short!!! Everyone needs salvation! Be sure to stress in this lesson that we all do need Jesus when this life is over, but that could be awhile. Until then, all need the Lord right now!!

After giving them the summary of what is ahead [last paragraph] point out the two memory verses that they should be ready to quote at your next meeting. In closing, ask the boys to think of someone they know (family, friend, classmate, or other) that is in real trouble without Jesus. Then, pray this short prayer, "**Lord, I am going to learn all that I can so that soon I can help rescue _____**") [Have boys insert that person's name as they pray with you.]

LESSON 2 "Four Strikes – You're Way Out!"

Begin by asking your boys, "**Have you ever wondered why, if God is offering everybody a chance to have His help (now, in this life) and then to live with Him in heaven, forever...all that...why don't they just say 'Yes – Me – I want that too'? Well, the Bible tells us there are at least four reasons why they just don't get it!**"

Now cover the notes concerning the 'Four Strikes' at your best pace. You do not need to read every scripture but do tell the boys they should look them up at home. It is recommended that you read to your boys Hebrews 4:16 (at end of paragraph.) Then discuss the "Think About This".

In "Strike Two" share with them Romans 7 verses 18-19 and 24-25 as shown here from the New Living Translation: "**I want to do what is right, but I can't. I want to do what is good, but I don't. I don't want to do what is wrong, but I do it anyway...Oh, what a miserable person I am! Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin and death? Thank God! The answer is in Jesus Christ our Lord.**"

For "Strike Three", comment on the verses (make it personal) then read Colossians 1:20-23. The point about the first three strikes is that people cannot, on their own, without God's help, get back to God. They cannot, without the Holy Spirit, even know that they need Him! This is the reason you cannot just 'put off God' until you 'want him' - He might just "put you off" first!!

"Strike Four" describes the seriousness of every lost person's situation. Simply stated: every unsaved person is the devil's slave! Period!! It is important that this is stressed! No one can say, "I want nothing to do with it – I'm staying out of this – It has nothing to do with me – I don't believe any of it, so that's it." [CAUTION: Be considerate that some of your own boys may still be 'there', with that attitude! Make very clear that "All...have fallen short of the glory of God."]

Have your Bible marked and ready ahead of time to read the final verses: Rom 6:16-18 / Mat 12:30 / Luke 16:13 / and Rev 3:15,16. Cover these quickly but with sincere feeling. Assure your crew that the answer to everyone's need will be presented in the very next lesson! Remind boys of the new memory verses and close with your boys reciting ones from last week.

LESSON 3 "Justice For All"

Open with, **"Has anyone ever stolen from you, lied about you, or cheated you out of something?"** If one or more indicate 'yes' [no time to talk about it, though] ask them something like, **"It felt real bad, didn't it? Even if they got caught, it still bothered you. In fact, we all have a clear sense that 'wrong' is wrong, bad guys should pay, and that some things are just not 'fair'! This is what this lesson is about – that deep inside we all know what is supposed to happen when rules are broken and we get caught (and we will get caught!!!)"**

Read through the first paragraph. Ask how many boys can quote Romans 6:23 [you may wish to have those who can quote it from their Apprenticeship days do so together.] Remind the boys that one small stone or pebble in your pocket is hardly noticeable. But then ask, **"What if you added one more to your pocket every day for a year? How will it feel then? What about 5 or 10 years from now? And if every day until the end of your lifetime?? That sure would be a lot of sin!!!"** Make your own comments about the illustration of 'a man carrying his guilt'.

Continue reading through all of the second and third paragraphs.

At the start of the fourth one, read the first sentence and ask your boys to look at the picture of the guy in jail. Tell them that most men in jail are not upset that they 'did it', just that they got caught!! Say, **"The Bible tells us that everybody gets caught in the end! Then what happens?"** Read to them Hebrews 9:27. Then read to end of the paragraph.

Ask your boys, **"How many times have you said – 'That's Not Fair'?"** Read final paragraph. As you read the passage in Isaiah, do so with passion and conviction. This is what our Lord – your Lord – did for all of us. It was the consequence of our own foolish failure. Drive this point home with your crew - **"Jesus didn't deserve it – but we do!"**

If the time permits, have boys say (at least as a group) previous memory verses and remind them of the next two due for next week (Rom 6:23 & John 3:16.) Some boys may already know these but challenge them to be able to write them (or even to re-write them in their own words.) They may 'save a life' some day: encourage your boys to give their best to know them!

LESSON 4 "Jesus Our Only Hope"

Point out the cartoon man speaking, then read through John 14:6. Stress that "the only answer" means that no other religion can help you when this life is over! Some religions may make you feel "Ok" now, or important now, but at the end of this life you are in big trouble without Jesus Christ! (Continue reading to end of paragraph.)

The four Accomplishments of the Cross that are displayed here should be carefully understood. Most church folk know that Jesus ‘took our place’ (**substitution**) so that we can come back to God (**reconciliation**). But the concept of **redemption** (that sin sold us to the devil and God had to ‘buy’ us back) and **propitiation** (a legal transaction that set everything straight with God’s law, making our salvation a ‘perfect contract’) are not always understood or appreciated. Do your best to explain as you work through these, though your crew will catch on well enough. These will be on the Skill Evaluation quiz and need to be known.

Read this next paragraph (bottom of pg 6) with strong feeling. Direct your boys’ attention to the cross image here, about how terrible it was for our Lord yet He did it for us willingly!! You may want to comment on how (the way churches put up ‘pretty’ crosses on their church steeples or in their sanctuaries) most people don’t really understand how terrible it was for Him.

Now, continue with enthusiasm on the top of page 7. Read (or have a boy read) 2Cor 5:17, which will be one of their memory verses. Finish the final two paragraphs and touch on the “Helpful Hint” at the bottom. This could be used as your Top-It-Off activity for this meeting. Before breaking away remind boys of the two new memory verses here and have them recite their six previous ones: Rom 3:23 ; Mat 16:26 ; John 8:34,36 ; Mat 12:30 ; Rom 6:23 ; John 3:16 Also, remind them of their soul winner’s saying, “Learn Carefully and Share Prayerfully.”

LESSON 5 “Saving Faith”

The objective of this lesson is to convince your crew that everyone has ‘faith’ and use it in many ways every day. This is why it is not really surprising or important that people of other religions can be so ‘dedicated’ and ‘devout’ to their religious beliefs. You will be stressing here that it does matter what you believe! This needs to be a certainty in your own convictions before you can pass them on to your young men.

Point out the cartoon. Then read through the first two paragraphs (letting the boys enjoy the humor of the second cartoon.) Assign each of the two Proverbs (14:12 & 16:25) to two boys to read from his own Bible or yours. They are similar but emphasize the difference - no one would want either to happen to them! It does matter what you believe!!

Read carefully Ephesians 2:8,9 [this will be their memory verse] and to the end of this page. Be sure boys understand the difference between Grace and Mercy.

Page 9 is pretty straightforward: you can read through and comment where appropriate. Though the verse Isa 64:6 is not a memory verse it can be very important in witnessing. This is why it is in bold print and your crew should remember it. Read to them James 2:10,11 (if time allows) and put special emphasis on the dialog box that says “A cup with a broken handle...”. Remind the crew about the memory verse here (and all their verses) before departure.

LESSON 6 “God So Loves Me”

Chief, this is where it all comes together and (prayerfully) some of your boys will ‘come together’ with his saving Lord. In this meeting “do the work of an evangelist” (2Tim 4:5), always aware that some boys don’t make it back to next meetings – get it done in your first, best opportunity.

Let the little cartoon boy open things up and the lesson’s first words be your reply to him. Be sure to read the scripture Psalms 19:1-3. The proof of God’s existence is all around us! This is why the people who don’t want to believe in God (love Him, serve Him) have fabricated another ‘explanation’ for how everything got here. The Skill Master lessons for Evangelism present a few simple yet effective arguments against the foolishness of the ‘Theory’ of evolution (still only a theory – nothing has ever been proven conclusively!!) For this level of discussion, try to keep to the lesson and invite any ‘objectors’ to talk with you later.

It does not take ‘faith’ to believe in God – just to trust that God believes in you! This is the emphasis as you work through this page. At the bottom is another image of three silhouettes that could represent any of your crew members. Maybe the one on the left is just waiting and the right one stubborn, resisting. The guy in the middle is uncertain (hands in pockets) but might want to hear more.

The final paragraph (top of pg 11) is really an ‘altar call’. The little boy in prayer could be any of your crew if this lesson (with all the lessons and your Lifebuilder Boys program) has prepared their heart. Speak each sentence with the compassion of a soul winner!

Close out with a reminder of their final two memory verses and the importance that they work on all them diligently. This is a tough challenge for some. Fortunately, the quiz offers them most of the words of each verse with only blanks to fill in (though two they must know completely.) Make this a priority in their preparation to complete this Skill.

LESSON 7 “Sowing Seed & Reaping Hearts”

This lesson is mostly a review, but you do have one more emphasis to make on how witnessing is like planting (sowing) – the results will depend on the care you give to it. But also make it clear that even your best effort may not always ‘bear fruit’: everyone will make the choice for themselves, and some people just don’t want to do what’s right!!

As you go through the review exercises make it fun and interesting. Involve every crew member so they all stay ‘tuned in’. It is fine (even helpful) for boys to look back through their notes. Add a little teaching to it but be sure to finish in this session.

The Skill Evaluation ‘quiz’ is a bit lengthy but should be completed in one session (next time.) That whole meeting could be devoted for such. It is ok for you to discuss any parts of it with the boys ahead of time and even to offer assistance to youngest boys during the taking of it. Use your judgment to make this a pleasant but also meaningful experience for them.