

CHIEFS: You are to speak to the boys the larger, bold-print words as your ‘presentation’ (the fine print is instructions for you.) Speak with dramatic emphasis any underlined or capitalized words (remember, you’re onstage – make this a ‘great performance’!) Always have any needed props (illustrations or objects) prepared before meetings and don’t forget to bring them! Rehearse when possible. Always pray before, during, and after time with boys! PRAYER MAKES IT HAPPEN!!

Lesson 1: “Decently and In Order”

“The Apostle Paul wrote to the church in Corinth, Greece, telling them that they were to “let all things be done decently and in order.” [1 Corinthians 14:40] Now, in their case he was talking about how their church services should be conducted so everyone got the blessing they needed. But for us these words can apply to every part of our life. Things need to be kept clean, properly stored, and always ready for the next time they are needed. We learned that in our meeting today about ‘rope care’!

“Have you ever visited a fire station? [or call it a ‘fire house’ or whichever name is used in your area] What would we discover there? Fire hoses, fire trucks, rubber suits and boots! But what would we observe about those things? [let boys offer answers] Everything would be in their place, ready for the next time they are needed. And when there is a fire or other emergency, you sure don’t want to have to go ‘lookin for somethin’ – do you? It all needs to be ready to go into action! Lives may depend on that!!

“When it comes to the spiritual things in our life, things also need to be ‘in order’ and ready to go ‘into action’. Name some of those spiritual things. [allow boys opportunity to make a brief list which may include: daily Bible reading and prayer, attending Sunday school and church, regular devotions, sharing one’s faith] Do you know that, during his career, most firemen only go on emergency calls once in a while. Their time is mostly spent keeping themselves and their gear ready.

“We don’t know when the Lord will ‘call on us’ to do something for Him, or for others, but we need to be ready when He does!! Let’s say a prayer right now, to thank the Lord for a great start on our new Skill Patch, and to ask Him to help us to always (whether for Him or for others) do things ‘decently and in order’!! [PRAYER]

Lesson 2: (personal reflections)

[Since much of this lesson is review of Apprentice knot skills, use this time for personal sharing: perhaps your testimony, or theirs, or talk about where you plan to go in these lessons to equip them in handling challenges life may bring. Be responsive to the attitudes and interest of your Journeymen. Personal time like this can often be the best way to open hearts. Be sure to close in a prayer that aligns with the primary topic of your talk.]

Lesson 3: “Make Me A Strong Lifeline”

“What makes a good rescue knot? [answers can include: one you can tie quickly, that will stay tight, and that you can easily untie when done.] **Alright...but a knot is only going to be as good as the line it is a part of. What makes a good rescue rope?** [again, answers can vary but should include strength, ease of tying, and provides a good grip – not too small or rough to handle.] **So, to get the job done you need both – the right knot and the right line. What if you get your knot ready on a rope that ‘should’ be trustworthy, toss it out to help someone, but on their way to safety the line breaks – in just one place but breaks nevertheless.**

“You see, your life may be as fine as it should be in every area except one. But just like a chain with one bad link can’t be trusted, so is a length of rope with one frayed, worn or weakened point. How many of you would be willing to hang from a tall tree or hill top ridge holding on to a line you know has a weak spot??

“Listen, not only is the Lord counting on you but so are many people in your life now, and probably many more in your lifetime. ONE DAY YOU MAY NEED TO BE THEIR LIFELINE! God can make you strong enough, smart enough, courageous enough – but you got to ask Him to and let Him do whatever it will take. And that means you got to let Him do what the ropes tonight let you do. And what was that? [if boys are responsive, let them try to answer.] **The ropes let our hands turn them into lifesavers!! Let’s ask God to do the same with our lives. [PRAYER]**

Lesson 4: “The Right Foundation”

[Have your Bible ready to read from Matthew 7:24-27. As boys are getting seated for devotions, make careful steps around the floor in front of them, stopping occasionally to stomp once or twice as though you are ‘testing’ the floor’s strength. Once you have the boys’ attention - stop (almost as though embarrassed that they noticed what you were doing) and begin saying something like this...]

“Well...I guess you are all wondering what I was doing. I was ‘testing’ the floor because I didn’t want any of you to fall through it! [Give the boys a moment to react then smile and change your voice to reassure them...] “No...just kidding. But it would be sad, even tragic, if someone had been careless, or tried to cut corners to save money, and our floor ended up being unsafe. YOU MUST ALWAYS BUILD ON A FIRM FOUNDATION!! Jesus concluded his famous ‘Sermon on the Mount’ by saying, [read from your Bible Mat 7:24-27] ‘Therefore, whosoever heareth...’ [be sure to read whole passage!]

Many years ago, on the North Carolina coast of the United States, there was a nice but simple collection of small townhomes (quaint, resort-like apartments) that were situated with a beautiful view of the ocean, constructed on higher ground safely away from the pounding surf. Though the beachfront area well in front of them was of considerable beauty, some developers eventually decided to build large, condominium type structures closer to the water (between these quaint homes and the sea) which blocked the view for everyone else!

Things stayed that way for some years until a violent hurricane passed nearby, washing much of the beach away and leaving these large condominiums at great risk of falling into the sea. Their owners made appeals to city and state government for assistance money to restore the sand dunes and beach area, but these requests were denied. Eventually many residents moved away: unable to sell - they had to accept their losses.

We have been learning to build (with lashings and logs) and I am sure there are many great things you would like to do with your new knowledge. But always remember, no matter what you 'build in life' it will only be as good as the foundation upon which it is built!

Proverbs 10:25 says, "As the whirlwind passeth, so is the wicked no more: but the righteous (have) an everlasting foundation." Say that verse with me [slowly repeat the verse, stopping at each punctuation, with boys saying the words after you.] How many of you want to be sure you are on God's everlasting foundation?? Then let's all pray together about that right now. [PRAYER]

Lesson 5: "Two Sticks"

[Have two sticks of a couple feet in length and a 12inch ruler or stick ready in hand – two drumsticks or yardsticks will do well for the longer pieces]

"Good or Evil...it seems like everything in our world can be used for the one or the other, doesn't it. Like these two sticks: see [Hold the two long sticks up and create a 'plus sign' (+)]...now, what did I make? [Let boys call out answers together] **That's a 'plus sign' – means things get more, get better, are good! But what about this one** [now make an "X", letting boys again voice their answers, though these may vary.] **Alright, this one may be a little harder to tell. An "X" may mean to multiply (which is even more increase than just adding. That's better!) But it can also mean "wrong... or stay out ...or don't do it"!!**

"Now, we learned [or say "will learn", if lessons 5 & 6 have not been presented yet] **to tie two kinds of lashings ('square' and 'diagonal'), that connects two poles together so we can build with them. That is 'good' of course – but only as long as we build something for a good use!!**

"We can build a small tower with the lashings we've learned [or, "we will learn"] **but that same tower can be used to hang a bell or a flag can also be used to hang a man!!! Now look at this one made with a third stick** [hold up the two long sticks parallel to each other with the shorter one across the center, making the letter "H". Practice before meeting to be able to do this smoothly!] **This is the letter "H"...but what does it stand for in your heart right now? Heaven or Hell?? Just like anything we build, which we can do good or evil with, it's up to you to decide what is to be done with your life! Let's pray and ask for the Lord's help to build something good out of our lives! [PRAYER]**

Lesson 6: “Count the Cost”

“In Luke chapter 14 Jesus said to his disciples, ‘Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won’t you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it? For if you lay the foundation and are not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule you, saying, This person began to build and wasn’t able to finish!’” [verses 28-30, NIV translation]

“Nobody wants to start something they can’t finish!! Any of you boys ever begin putting a plastic model together or worked a while on a jigsaw puzzle just to find out that some of the pieces are missing?? [Let boys show a response but don’t take time to talk about it] Or, in school, did you wait too late to start working on a paper or a project that was due and time ran out before you were ‘half done’?? No fun, was it? And sometimes you can get into really big trouble.

“As Journeymen we are learning how to build things that can help us in the field, or while out camping or hiking. But planning is important. You must ask yourself: do I have enough wood (or can I get more nearby), do I have enough line for lashings with some to spare ‘just in case’, and most important – do I have the skill and help from others I will need?

“This is what Jesus was saying to his disciples: do you have what it takes in faith, courage, obedience, commitment? In verse 33 he tells them they can only be his disciples (his faithful followers) if they give up whatever might HINDER THEM and give in to every way they can HELP HIM! This is what it means to be His ‘disciple’.

“Let’s all pray together and ask the Lord to help us finish what we start – especially our journey to heaven!!!” [PRAYER]