



# ROPES & KNOTS

## CHIEF'S KIT - LIFE



### For Lesson 1: “Bound To Do Good”

(As boys are seated for devotions, select one tall boy and one a good bit smaller than him. Place them beside you as you 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 is like some of our life’s biggest problems. What happens when something this BIG pushes around someone this SMALL? [Have the big guy gently shoving against the little one but don’t him get carried away - nobody gets hurt!!]**

**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!** [As you say this pick several fair-sized boys to come and stand behind the little guy with their arms outstretched to brace him as the big guy tries to continue pushing - BUT NOT TOO HARD!]

**Ok, most of the time this works fine but some times you need the best help of all - 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 we have 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 we have HELP when we need it...from fellow Christians, yes! 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 lead your boys in singing it once or twice.] **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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### For Lesson 2: “Don’t Let It Get Away”

[This time you will pass out today’s lesson about Stopper Knots - first - before devotions.]

**In today’s lesson we will learn about special knots that are used to keep lines from getting away from us. We call them End Knots or Stopper Knots. They are simple to tie and easy to untie (all of our knots will be that way!) But remember, the right knot can also save us a lot of trouble later!!**

Look near the bottom of the lesson at the pictures of “dock cleats” (what you tie a boat to.) These are called Slip Knots, which are one way 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 new memory verse is trying to tell us. Look at the bottom of the page and let’s 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 to get away!!

So, what should you do with God’s rules? 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 into 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!” This is from Deuteronomy 6:6-9 That sure seems like a good way to make sure you never forget to obey His word!!

For us the best way is to put as much of God’s word into our heart by memorizing verses and by reading His word 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”

[Chief: read beforehand Mark’s account in Mk 11:1-6 so you can add extra details if you want to this story]

Let’s first practice our memory verse from last week: “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)

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 close to Jerusalem they stopped again by the hillside called Mt. Olives. There, Jesus sent two of his disciples to a village nearby to get a donkey (some Bibles call it a “colt”) It was tied near a house door.

Now...what kind of knot do you think was holding that donkey there, probably tied to a fence or a post? It was what we call a “HITCH”. We are going to learn how to make two different kinds of hitches in this meeting!! It’s a good thing that the disciples knew how to untie that kind of knot! 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!!

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 Jesus" RIGHT and TIGHT!! [PRAYER]

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#### Lesson 4: "The Best Rope"

(Have the crew recite Proverbs 6:20,21 Remind boys they must keep practicing it!)

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 very 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 he 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! So, 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 a lot more money. But then 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. The rope maker 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 Life Ring 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. Then someone watching nearby 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 that Rope Maker had known it would be Jesus coming in next to buy some rope that he would've made something of better 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]

## Lesson 5: “Heaven’s Lifeline”

(Have the crew recite Matthew 18:18 which they learned in last lesson. Also, recite Proverbs 6:20,21)

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 on the surface. Now, what kind of knot do you think they had attached to him? [Many answers are possible – let boys suggest several from their lessons] Actually, we are going to learn a new one today that would be the best for this - the BOWLINE!

The diver also had a radio inside his helmet so he could speak with those on the surface. As he worked down in that dark, quiet place SUDDENLY a huge octopus slipped up from behind him 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: 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? [Maybe “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. Open this devotion by having the crew recite Proverbs 6:20,21 and Matthew 18:18. Remind them they must know these verses to complete their Skill Evaluation to earn their Skill Award uniform patch!]

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 some time early, maybe at the age you are now, you do something 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 keep going and soon do something else as bad (or worse!!) [Tie another knot near the first] And another...and another... [Continue tying knots until the rope is less than half its original length. Then hold it up for all to see.]

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]

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**Lesson 7: “The End Of My Rope”**

When under pressure, or feeling there is no solution to their problem, some people say something like this: “I’m at the end of my rope!!”. What rope do you think they’re talking about? [Let boys offer a few suggestions as you hold up a short length of rope]

In some ways your life is like a rope. It has a “beginning” and an “end”. [hold out the two ends of the rope in each hand] Wouldn’t it be nice if you knew ahead of time just how long it is? Well, we can’t - but we can keep up with how much of it we have used so far. How do we do that? [Boys probably will say “counting birthdays”] It is important that we make the best of each year of our life, that we be careful not to do something so risky that we might reach the “end of our rope” too soon!!

A very experienced cave explorer was going to go down a deep “shaft” - straight downward - so he prepared a rope to slide down on. Since it was going to be very dark he tied knots every 10 feet so on the rope. That way he could feel the knots with his hands as he descended and would know when he was getting near the end of the rope.

Everything was going fine - he kept careful count - but then the sounds of bats, the sparkling lights of cave bugs, and the pretty reflections of colorful crystals and stones that were lit up by the light on his head, made him forget his count of the knots. When he passed the last knot there was no rope for him to grab. He would have fallen . . .

But fortunately he also had a safety line attached to his belt and friends up top were able to pull him back to the surface!!! He was safe because he had a “safety line”.

Our Bible and our prayer life is our safety line and Jesus is our friend up top!!!!

I want you to do your best on your Skill Evaluation. But far more important is for you to do your very best to show God that you are willing to learn, remember, and use faithfully everything He wants to teach you - from beginning to end!

[PRAYER]