

March 2012 Monthly Character Connection -- Faith

Sharing/Faith Ideas

Open a bag of M&M's and have each boy take a few (5 or 10). Before they eat them they must share something with the group per the chart below:

	For your brown M&M's tell one thing you've learned from nature.
	For your red M&M's say one nice thing about the person on your right
	As the red was for right, for yellow say one nice thing about the person on your left
	Green M&M's tell a wish
	Blue M&M's mean u have to tell something you want to change about yourself

Circle Prayer

Your Scouts will have great fun constructing their own instant prayer:

1. Standing in a circle, the first person starts the prayer by saying one word – probably 'Dear'.
2. The person next to them says another word, such as 'God'.
3. The next must then continue the prayer with a third word, such as 'Thank'.
4. This continues around the circle, with each person saying just one word, which follows on sensibly from the previous one. Hopefully the prayer will keep going around the circle more than once before coming to a full stop. Leaders placed in the circle at intervals can help keep it on track, and a certain amount of prompting may be needed at times.
5. Perhaps this could become the new way of closing your weekly meetings – try it!

Cub Scouts Are Thankful Opening

Before the meeting, each boy draws a picture, cuts out images from magazines, or uses online images to make a small poster of things he is thankful for.

Narrator: You can't have Faith if you aren't grateful for what you have. Let's see what the boys are grateful for.

Boys hold up or post their picture one and a time and say "I'm thankful for....."

Narrator: So you can see that our Cub Scouts Are Grateful – and there's one more thing we are grateful for – to live in a free land where we can worship as we please.

Let's prepare to honor our flag, the symbol of our freedoms.

(Lead into the Flag Ceremony)

All Aboard Game

This classic "Trust Your Team" game involves having a space that gets smaller – but the group has to find a way to keep everyone "aboard." You can use a space marked off with chalk or a line in the dirt, or pieces of newspaper that gradually get removed till there is only a small piece. Encourage the boys to figure out a way to keep everyone on – joining hands, holding hands behind backs, and standing on one leg only.

CORE VALUE RELATED STUFF

Connecting FAITH with Outdoor Activities

- ★ **Nature Activities** - Identify divinity in the big (mountains, rivers, horses) and small things (insects, birds, tree leaves, snowflakes) in nature
- ★ **Service Projects** - Help clean up a local place of worship or help with one of their activities (e.g. feeding the homeless or conducting a blanket drive).
- ★ **Games & Sports** - Remind boys that their physical abilities are a gift from God and reinforce that they should be thankful that they are so wondrously created.
- ★ **Ceremonies** - Hold a trail devotion. Hold recognition ceremonies and pack celebrations outdoors in the beauty of nature.

- ★ **Take part in a 10 Commandment Hike or plan one just for your group.**

Ten Commandment Hikes are interfaith and cross-cultural events. Hikers visit ten different houses of worship to hear a brief talk about that faith, its worship space, and an explanation of one of the Ten Commandments. Participants gain greater understanding of other religions and are introduced to the religious awards programs. If your community is interested in sponsoring a "Ten Commandment Hike", resources and ideas are available at <http://www.praypub.org/10commhike.htm>. Another format is to set up ten stations (or maybe 5) around camp and have the boys hike to each. Someone at the station explains a commandment (or two). Then the boys play a game or do an activity that reflects on what was taught before moving on to the next station.

Opening idea: Seeds of Faith

Assemble Scouts together, either in a circle around a bag of soil, or on both sides of a table with soil easily available. Each scout has a cup (paper, plastic, peat, your call) and seeds (all same variety to avoid drama)

Narrator: We are gathering today to plant seeds of Faith. You each have a cup; envision that cup is also you. It starts out empty, and as we grow, our life experiences fill them up. (Have scouts put soil in cups, 2/3 full)

Pick up your seed and place it in your soil. This is your seed of faith. It has the soil to nourish it, as we have our family and friends and religious leaders who have helped us shape our beliefs so far.

But your seed needs more, doesn't it! It needs light, and water, and time to grow! So too, do we all! So as you plant your seed and take care of it, think of your own faith and how you can help it grow, too! Attending worship, learning more about your faith, practicing your faith's rules, and helping others make the right choices can help your faith grow strong and tall!

As your seed grows, so too can your faith. And as your faith grows, it can be easier to make the right choices, stand up to peer pressure, and also make you a stronger person as you grow. Remember that there a lot of different faiths out there, and we must respect them all, though they may be different. But for now, take care of your seed, and enjoy learning about what grows from it!

Now will you please rise and join me in the Pledge of Allegiance?