

SCOUTING in AMERICA, BSA

RELIGIOUS EMBLEMS
for the Episcopal Church USA

Grades 10-12

RELATIONSHIPS



BIND US TOGETHER, LORD

- I. HOLY BAPTISM (grades 1-3)
- II. COMMUNION (grades 4-6)
- III. CONFIRMATION (grades 7-9)
- IV. RELATIONSHIPS (grades 10-12)

*prepared by the Rev'd Edward K. Erb
under the auspices of the Episcopal Scouters' Association
and the Brotherhood of St. Andrew
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10-2018

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The Book of Common Prayer, 1979

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The Holy Bible

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BIND US TOGETHER, LORD

Bob Gillman (1974)

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.

There is only one God, There is only one King, There is only one Body,
That is why we sing: *Refrain*

Made for the glory of God, Purchased by His precious Son.
Born with the right to be clean, For Jesus the victory has won. *Refrain*

You are the family of God, You are the promise divine,
You are God's chosen desire, You are the glorious new wine. *Refrain*

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INTRODUCTION

I have a cat

a dog

a wife (of 36 years)

two children

three grandchildren

one or two really close friends

a mother who is 91 years old

an older sister, an even older brother

a parish family

colleagues and associates in work and in the community

and yes, even a few enemies

and people I avoid, even crossing the street to avoid them,

and I'm - I hope - a good Christian

and good Scout!

(a Scout is Kind, Friendly, Courteous, Loyal....)

Maybe being "Brave" is what would make me not cross the street to avoid!

Maybe being **Christian** is what would make me not cross the street -
unless I can be a Good Samaritan (*reference* St. Luke's Gospel, chapter 10)

RELATIONSHIPS

THEY ARE REALLY HARD

YET THEY CAN BE REALLY JOYOUS!

Family

Friends

Enemies

Co-Workers

Buddies

Pets

A Lover

GIRL MEETS WORLD

One of the best shows dealing with teen relations from a few years ago was the next generation. When my sons were growing up, it was *Boy Meets World*, then Cory and Tepanga's children were born. Maybe you remember *Girl Meets World*.

See if you can find some of the episodes and describe the relationship between:

- Cory & Tepanga
- Cory & Riley
- Riley & Augie
- Cory & Shawn
- Riley & Maya
- Shawn & Maya
- Shawn & Katy
- Shawn & his dead father
- Katy & Maya
- Riley & Lucas
- Maya & Lucas
- Farkle & Lucas
- Cory & Harley

What shows do you watch that works through various relationships? Which is your favorite? Which do you think is the best at addressing relationship? Why?

Discuss with your class or counselor.

NAMING

Write a name or more under each category.

Some may have no names. Some you may not want to or be able to name.

Give those an initial or a 'special' name - a private name for you alone to know.

Family *(we'll work on this one later)*

Friends

Enemies

Co-Workers/Classmates

Buddies

Pets

A Lover

(be honest with yourself - so that you can be honest with her/him.)

The Greatest Commandments

Jesus said, the first commandment is this:

Love the Lord your God with all you heart, soul, mind and strength.

The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.

Mark 12: 29-31 (quoted in BCP on p. 351)

You think these are only two commandments:

Love God,
and love your neighbor.

The ‘hidden’ commandment is that you have to love yourself, first. Loving others - those you see around you every day -demonstrates the love you have for God - whom you cannot see.

But you cannot love anyone else, especially God,
unless you love yourself as God has made you.

You are unique, and the greatest way we show that we do not love ourselves is to try to be something or someone else, and to live up to other people’s expectations.

From an early age, you probably knew what special talents, gifts, and joys you have that are totally different even from anyone else in your family.

Nonetheless, if you’ve done a family tree or done what is called a genogram, you may find some surprising similarities.

A genogram traces what relations are beyond a family tree - adoptions, divorces, re-marriages. A genogram also traces patterns of diseases and causes of death - proclivity to heart attacks, or cancer, alcoholism and other addictive behaviors. Other interesting traits can be vocations (“callings” from the Latin *vocare*, “to call”), occupations, even talents.

“THE NUT DOESN’T FALL FAR FROM THE TREE”

Or Does it?

Only You can determine.

For Example:

One person’s father was an electrical engineer; his uncle and brother were accountants and math teachers, his sister worked for a Credit Union. All mathematical occupations. But her? She realized at a young age that she had a great gift and love for classical music. The odd ball of the family. She thought she was adopted! Yet many years later it dawned on her that music is one of the most mathematical arts, especially as she enjoyed the theory of musical composition, and the science of musical acoustics! As the saying goes, “the nut doesn’t fall far from the tree,” and she began to “own” her place in the family.

If you’ve begun the Family Life merit badge, this is a good time to consider a Family Tree. Holiday gatherings are a good time to sit with parents, grand-parents, aunts and uncles, maybe even great-grandparents to share the family stories. Ask about their back-ground, what they remember about growing up - where, when, and so forth - and special memories. Remember they won’t live forever, and you don’t want to lose their part of your story.

I tell my Scouts in one of my Vespers Sermons -
Love your Parents, because you will become them!

(Remember the TEN Commandments? One of them is:

“Honor your father and your mother.”

SO,
Let’s do it!

Who
They
Were
Is
Who
Is
Am

@
FAMILY
TREE



The 1960s and 70s

Your Parents

The Vietnam War

The 1930s and 40s

Your Grandparents

The Great Depression & WW-II

The early 1900s

Your Great-Grandparents

The “Swinging” Years then WW-I

GERMANY FRANCE

IRELAND

CHINA

AFRICA

ITALY

Where in the World were they?

MINER

BANKER

MUSICIAN

FARMER

CARPENTER

BAKER

What did they do?

CANCER

“OLD-AGE”

HEART-CONDITION

KILLED IN WAR

ACCIDENT

How did they die?

GENETICS

Wonder why you have blond hair when your parents are both brunettes? No, you are not adopted. It’s genetics: dominant and recessive genes.

You learn in Biology class about hair and eye color. Occupations, disease and death patterns are genetic, too.

FAMILY-TREE BUILDER

PARENTS:		GRAND-PARENTS:	GREAT-GRANDPARENTS
key: DOB Date of Birth POB Place of Birth OCC Occupation DOD Date of Death POD Place of Death POI Place of Interment <i>Insert FULL names; for mothers, insert maiden names.</i>	<u>Father:</u> DOB POB OCC: DOD POD POI	<u>PATERNAL</u> <u>Father:</u> DOB POB OCC: DOD POD POI	<u>Grandfather's:</u> <u>Father:</u> DOB POB OCC: DOD POD POI <u>Mother:</u> DOB POB OCC: DOD POD POI
			<u>Grandmother's:</u> <u>Father:</u> DOB POB OCC: DOD POD POI
		<u>Mother:</u> DOB POB OCC: DOD POD POI	<u>Mother:</u> DOB POB OCC: DOD POD POI
YOUR NAME:			
DOB:			
POB:			
OCC			
	<u>Mother:</u> DOB POB OCC: DOD POD	<u>MATERNAL</u> <u>Father:</u> DOB POB OCC: DOD POD POI	<u>Grandmother's:</u> <u>Father:</u> DOB POB OCC: DOD POD POI
			<u>Mother:</u> DOB POB DOD POD POI
		<u>Mother:</u> DOB POB OCC: DOD POD POI	<u>Grandmother's:</u> <u>Father:</u> DOB POB OCC: DOD POD POI

POB
OCC:
DOD
POD
POI

Mother:
DOB
POB
DOD
POD
POI

GREAT-Grandmother's:

Father:
DOB
POB
OCC:
DOD
POD
POI

GREAT-GREATS
refer to the TOP half of last column

FATHER's FAMILY

GREAT-Grandfather's:

Father:
DOB
POB
OCC:
DOD
POD
POI

Mother:
DOB
POB
OCC:
DOD
POD
POI

Mother:
DOB
POB
OCC:
DOD
POD
POI

GREAT-Grandmother's:

Father:
DOB
POB
OCC:
DOD
POD
POI

Mother:
DOB
POB
OCC:
DOD
POD
POI

GREAT-Grandmoether's:

Father:
DOB

refer to the BOTTOM half of last column

(MOTHER'S FAMILY)

GREAT-Grandfather's:

Father:
DOB
POB
OCC:
DOD
POD
POI

Mother:

DOB
POB
OCC:
DOD
POD
POI

GREAT-Grandmother's:

Father:
DOB
POB
OCC:
DOD
POD
POI

Mother:

DOB
POB
OCC:
DOD
POD
POI

GREAT-Grandmoeber's:

Father:
DOB
POB
OCC:
DOD
POD
POI

Mother:

DOB
POB
DOD
POD
POI

GREAT-Grandmother's:

Father:
DOB
POB
OCC:
DOD
POD
POI

Mother:
DOB
POB
OCC:
DOD
POD
POI

NEXT THINGS FIRST - YOU ARE WHO YOU ARE
(What was before, is just preliminary. Now, we're ready for the real work!)

Two famous quotes:

"To thine own self be true"	Shakespeare
<i>and</i>	
"Physician, heal thyself."	Jesus in Luke 4:23

Remember the First and Second (and Third) Commandments,
You have to love yourself before you love anyone else,
and before you love God.

Do you love yourself?
Honestly?

Discuss with your counselor.

This is an important question,
and not about thinking yourself better than anyone else -
that's where abusive behavior comes from -
or thinking less of yourself than others -
that's where bullying comes from.
God made you a special and unique person,
with special and unique gifts / talents / potentials.

What special talents do you have - what makes you unique?
(And don't be fake - be yourself!)
You may still be trying to figure that out - and that's OK - you've got a lot of time!

Discuss with your counselor.

The next sections will deal with more knowing of yourself.
You started that with the family tree digging into 'social archeology.'
Now we'll go a little further, into some psychology.
But first - a detour. Physics before Psychology.

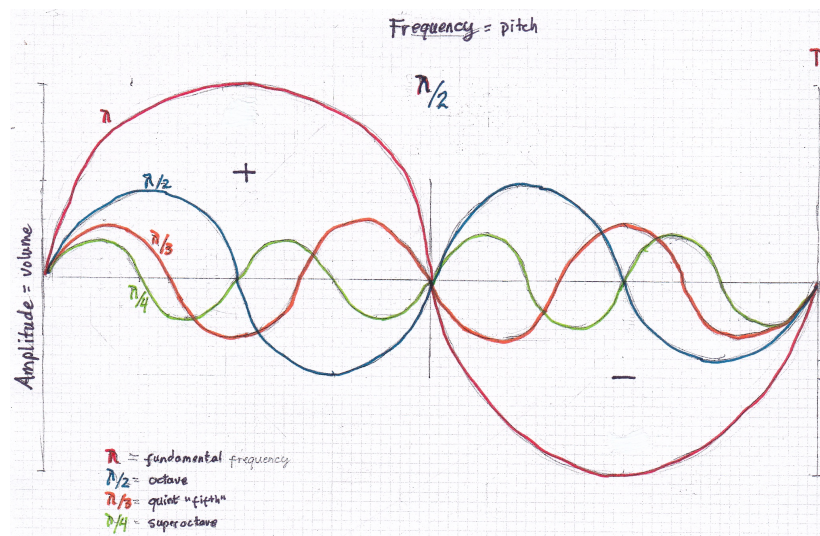
SOME SCIENCE

“Elementary, Watson”

(You can skip this part if you want, or you can explore it with your Physics teacher at school.)

“IN HARMONY” and “SYMPATHY” - SYMPATHETIC VIBRATION
What does this have to do with Relationships? Figure it out, Einstein! =^)

I’m a musician as well as a priest, and intrigued by science as well, especially fascinated by the physics of music. We call it Musical Acoustics.



drawing by EKerb, 1979

Harmony

The great Anglican theologian from the 17th century, the priest and poet George Herbert wrote that: “Music is but three notes vied and multiplied,” meaning that the three notes of a common chord: fundamental, third, and fifth.

All this comes from a physics phenomenon = the vibrations of a string. Which when plucked (like a guitar or violin string) vibrates at its full length, half its length, a third its length, a quarter, a fifth and so forth. Explore this with your Physics teacher.

Maybe you could do a special project for extra credit!

Sympathetic Vibration

If you know about the piano keyboard -

an acoustic piano, not an electronic keyboard -

There is a trick to prove the Harmonic Series. (If the piano is in tune.)

Silently press the key for Middle C.

Then “pound” the key for C the octave below.

You’ll hear Middle C “ring” sympathetically.

Now, hold down, silently, the G above Middle C,

and strike the same lower C key.

You should hear the “G” sound softly.

Do the same with the higher C, then the higher E, then the higher G.

If the piano is perfectly in tune, you will be able to hear - very softly
each of the higher notes (harmonics) resonating with its base -
fundamental note.

Does this have anything to do with Relationships? What do you think?

What about magnetism? “Opposites attract”? How do you describe attraction?
“Chemistry” between one person and another.

Discuss this or other scientific/ biological/ psychological parallels with your class / counselor.



BALANCE GIVE & TAKE YIN & YANG COMPROMISE

In Chinese philosophy, Yin and Yang describes how opposite or contrary forces are actually complementary, interconnected, and interdependent in the natural world, and how they give rise to each other as they interrelate to one another.

In Myers-Briggs personality discernment, there are four dichotomies:

Introvert

needs quiet time to re-energize

Extrovert

gains energy from being with people

iNtuitive

imaginative, future, possibilities, artistic

Sensing

reality based, in the now, facts, scientific

Feeling

sensitive to self and others, consensus

Thinking

logical, task-oriented, objective, analytical

Perceiving

flexible, open-minded, multitask

Judging

organized, advance planning, focused

Explore your personality type with a simple 'test' at:

www.personalitypathways.com/type_inventory.html

You can even search the Web for Myers-Briggs Harry Potter characters. I was surprised to see that I'm Luna!

Put your four letters in the following boxes. For example, I'm an **I N F P**
What do you think you are?

REMEMBER YIN and YANG ?

The focus of Myers-Briggs is not only to analyze and know yourself (in Jungian psychology terms), but the mother and daughter who developed the 'evaluation' sought to help us know how we react, and how we react and work and live and love with others, including our partners in life.

It can be an important part of *all* your relationships: at school, at work, in love...

You may be an INFP and your partner may be an ESTJ.

How would that work?

Write down how the tensions in that relationship might be.



Now write down how the Yin and Yang of that relationship can balance each other.

Discuss with your class or counselor.

COVENANTS

from The Witnessing and Blessing of a Lifelong Covenant
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“All Christians are called to bear witness to the good news of God’s love and grace in Jesus Christ, through the power of the Holy Spirit. We are empowered for such witness by our covenantal relationship with God.

“Baptism initiates us into that covenant, making us Christ’s own forever and members of Christ’s Body, the Church. The eucharist sustains us in that covenantal life and strengthens us to be Christ’s witnesses in the world.

“Our covenantal life with God is expressed in relationships of commitment and faithfulness...”

ASSIGNMENT - Reflect and respond to each of these themes, also taken from *Witnessing and Blessing*. Share with your class/counselor.

Themes for Theological Reflection and Spiritual Practice

- *Vocation*: God calls people into various kinds of relationship, whether as single people, in monastic communities, or as intimate couples. These vocational callings can empower our witness to the gospel. The decision to enter into a covenantal union is a vocation marked by these characteristics: “fidelity, monogamy, mutual affection and respect, careful, honest communication, and the holy love which enables those in such relationships to see in each other the image of God.”
- *Households*: Covenantal relationships are often lived in households in which we practice daily the giving of ourselves for the good of another. While households take many different forms, they create a space of mutual trust and accountability. The joy, intimacy, and shared vulnerability of households can thus help us learn the spiritual disciplines of compassion, forgiveness, and reconciliation in lives of committed monogamy and fidelity.
- *Fruitfulness*: The divine grace that sustains a covenantal relationship bears fruit in countless ways, not only for the couple but for the wider community as well. Covenanted couples manifest this grace in their shared gifts for ministry and in lives of service, generosity, and hospitality.

- *Mutual Blessing*: A blessed relationship is set apart for a divine purpose: to bear witness to the creating, redeeming, and sanctifying love of God in the world. As the Spirit empowers the couple for this witness, the Church is likewise blessed and strengthened for its mission and ministry.
-

We make many covenants in our lives - some written (like contracts), some spoken (like promises) and some left unsaid. Some are just implied - you don't need to say them.

What covenants have you made?

To your family?

To your teachers?

To your sports teams, or musical groups?

To your boss and co-workers?

To your Scout Troop, Scoutmaster, Patrol?

To your community,

the nation,

the world?

To _____ ?

To God?

MARRIAGE PREPARATION

Knowing myself and recognizing my faults

When I bring a couple into my office for preparation to be married (Pre-Marital Counseling), and after the “Getting to Know You” and basic information sessions, I give them a homework assignment.

I require each of them to privately send me an e-mail that they are not to discuss or share with their partner, answering the following question:

*What is in your personal habits, character, actions,
that could potentially ruin this relationship?*

(*example:* One potential groom after weeks of thinking about it responded, “I will do absolutely anything to avoid a conflict: avoidance, denial, lying, walking away.” He and I discussed it privately - kind of the ‘seal of the confessional’ - and I’m pleased to say, 10 years in, and they are still married.)

SO...

Answer the question for yourself. Think long. Don’t give the obvious, quick answer.

*What is in your personal habits, character, actions,
that could potentially ruin your relationship?*

The Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage

2015

The following Rite was adopted to be used for all legal unions by the General Convention of the Episcopal Church. I personally prefer the term 'partner' instead of husband/wife. 'Partner' describes what Genesis suggests, that Adam and Eve were to be 'help-mates'.

ASSIGNMENT:

Read through the ceremony with your class/counselor and discuss each segment.

At the time appointed, the persons to be married, with their witnesses, assemble in the church or some other appropriate place.

During their entrance, a hymn, psalm, or anthem may be sung, or instrumental music may be played.

The Exhortation and Declaration of Consent

The Celebrant, facing the people and the persons to be married addresses the congregation and says

Dearly beloved: We have come together in the presence of God to witness and bless the joining together of N.N. and N.N. in Holy Matrimony. The joining of two people in a life of mutual fidelity signifies to us the mystery of the union between Christ and his Church, so is worthy of being honored among all people.

The union of two people in heart, body, and mind is intended by God for their mutual joy; for the help and comfort given one another in prosperity and adversity; [*and, when it is God's will, for the gift of children and their nurture in the knowledge and love of the Lord*]. Therefore marriage is not to be entered into unadvisedly or lightly, but reverently, deliberately, and in accordance with the purposes for which it was instituted by God.

Into this holy union N.N. and N.N. now come to be joined. If any of you can show just cause why they may not lawfully be married, speak now; or else for ever hold your peace.

Then the Celebrant then says to the persons to be married

I require and charge you both, here in the presence of God, that if either of you know any reason why you may not be united in marriage lawfully, and in accordance with God's Word, you do now confess it.

The Celebrant says to the first member of the couple and then the other, in turn:

N., will you have N. to be your husband/wife; to live together in the covenant of marriage? Will you love him/her, comfort him/her, honor and keep him/her, in sickness and in health; and, forsaking all others, be faithful to him as long as you both shall live?

Answer I will.

The Celebrant then addresses the congregation, saying

Will all of you witnessing these promises do all in your power to uphold these two persons in their marriage?

People We will.

If there is to be a presentation or a giving in marriage, it takes place at this time. See page 186-187 of "I will Bless You..." for additional directions.

The Ministry of the Word

The Celebrant then says to the people

God be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

O gracious and everliving God, you have created humankind (us) in your image: Look mercifully upon N. and N. (this couple) who come to you seeking your blessing, and assist them with your grace, that with true fidelity and steadfast love they may honor and keep the promises and vows they make; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Then one or more of the following passages from Holy Scripture is read. Other readings Scripture suitable for the occasion may be used. If there is to be a Communion, a passage from the Gospel always concludes the Readings.

Genesis 1:26-28 (Male and female he created them)
Song of Solomon 2:10-13; 8:6-7 (Many waters cannot quench love)
Tobit 8:5b-8 (*New English Bible*) (That she and I may grow old together)

1 Corinthians 13:1-13 (Love is patient and kind)
Ephesians 3:14-19 (The Father from whom every family is named)
Ephesians 5:1-2, 21-33 (Walk in love, as Christ loved us)
Colossians 3:12-17 (Love which binds everything together in harmony)
1 John 4:7-16 (Let us love one another for love is of God)

*Between the Readings, a Psalm, hymn, or anthem may be sung or said.
Appropriate Psalms are 67, 127, and 128.*

When a passage from the Gospel is to be read, all stand, and the Deacon or Minister appointed says

The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to _____
People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Matthew 5:1-10 (The Beatitudes)
Matthew 5:13-16 (You are the light . . . Let your light so shine)
Matthew 7:21, 24-29 (Like a wise man who built his house upon the rock)
John 15:9-12 (Love one another as I have loved you)

After the Gospel, the Reader says

The Gospel of the Lord.
People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

A homily or other response to the Readings may follow.

What follows is the actual Solemnization and Blessing of the Union between two people.

Read carefully through the text and discuss the meaning with your class/counselor.

The Marriage

Each member of the couple , in turn , takes the right hand of the other and says,

In the Name of God, I, N., take you, N., to be my husband/wife, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, until we are parted by death. This is my solemn vow.

The BLESSING & EXCHANGING of RING(s)

NOTE: Do you remember from Confirmation Class that each Sacrament has a physical symbol?

Baptism: Water;

Communion: Bread and Wine;

Confirmation: Chrism oil;

at Ordination, it's the Stole.

And now, Marriage: the Rings -

that's why both partners should have a ring given them by the other:
circular/eternal/unending, made of precious metal..

The Priest may ask God's blessing on a ring or rings as follows

Bless, O Lord, *this ring* to be a *sign* of the vows by which N. and N. have bound themselves to each other; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The giver places the ring on the ring-finger of the other's hand and says

N., I give you this ring as a symbol of my vow, and with all that I am, and all that I have, I honor you, in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit (*or* in the Name of God).

Then the Celebrant joins the right hands of the couple and says

Now that N. and N. have given themselves to each other by solemn vows, with the joining of hands and the giving and receiving of *a ring*, I pronounce that they are wed to one another, in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Those whom God has joined together let no one put asunder.

People Amen.

The Prayers

If Communion is to follow, the Lord's Prayer may be omitted here.

All standing, the Celebrant says

Let us pray together in the words our Savior taught us.

People and Celebrant

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.	<i>or</i>	Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.
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The Deacon or other person appointed reads the following prayers, to which the People respond, saying, Amen.

If there is not to be a Communion, one or more of the prayers may be omitted.

NOTE: The petitions during the Prayers at Marriage are significant, not only for the couple, but for the gathering of all who are present.

INSTRUCTIONS: Read each of the following petitions and write a reflection of your thoughts on each one.

Read the prayers silently and slowly, thinking of your own relationships and replace “theirs” with “my” or “ours” - making the prayers your own.

Leader Let us pray.

Eternal God, creator and preserver of all life, author of salvation, and giver of all grace: Look with favor upon the world you have made, and for which your Son gave his life, and especially upon N. and N. (this couple) whom you make one flesh in Holy Matrimony. *Amen.*

Give them wisdom and devotion in the ordering of their common life, that each may be to the other a strength in need, a counselor in perplexity, a comfort in sorrow, and a companion in joy. *Amen.*

Grant that their wills may be so knit together in your will, and their spirits in your Spirit, that they may grow in love and peace with you and one another all the days of their life. *Amen.*

Give them grace, when they hurt each other, to recognize and acknowledge their fault, and to seek each other's forgiveness and yours. *Amen.*

Make their life together a sign of Christ's love to this sinful and broken world, that unity may overcome estrangement, forgiveness heal guilt, and joy conquer despair. *Amen.*

can | Bestow on them, if it is your will, the gift and heritage of children, and
be | the grace to bring them up to know you, to love you, and to serve you.
ommitted | *Amen.*

Give them such fulfillment of their mutual affection that they may reach out in love and concern for others. *Amen.*

Grant that all married persons who have witnessed these vows may find their lives strengthened and their loyalties confirmed. *Amen.*

Grant that the bonds of our common humanity, by which all your children are united one to another, and the living to the dead, may be so transformed by your grace, that your will may be done on earth as it is in heaven; where, O Father, with your Son and the Holy Spirit, you live and reign in perfect unity, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Other thoughts:

The Blessing of the Marriage

The people remain standing. The couple kneel, and the Priest says one of the following prayers

Most gracious God, we give you thanks for your tender love in sending Jesus Christ to come among us, to be born of a human mother, and to make the way of the cross to be the way of life. We thank you, also, for consecrating the union of two people in his Name. By the power of your Holy Spirit, pour out the abundance of your blessing upon N. and N. (this couple). Defend them from every enemy. Lead them into all peace. Let their love for each other be a seal upon their hearts, a mantle about their shoulders, and a crown upon their foreheads. Bless them in their work and in their companionship; in their sleeping and in their waking; in their joys and in their sorrows; in their life and in their death. Finally, in your mercy, bring them to that table where your saints feast for ever in your heavenly home; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

or this

O God, you have so consecrated the covenant of marriage that in it is represented the spiritual unity between Christ and his Church: Send therefore your blessing upon these your servants, that they may so love, honor, and cherish each other in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness, that their home may be a haven of blessing and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The couple still kneeling, the Priest adds this blessing

God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit, bless, preserve, and keep you; the Lord mercifully with his favor look upon you, and fill you with all spiritual benediction and grace; that you may faithfully live together in this life, and in the age to come have life everlasting. *Amen.*

The Peace

The Celebrant may say to the people

The peace of the Lord (Christ) be always with you.
People And also with you.

The newly married couple then greet each other, after which greetings may be exchanged throughout the congregation.

When Communion is not to follow, the wedding party leaves the church. A hymn, psalm, or anthem may be sung, or instrumental music may be played.

At the Eucharist

The liturgy continues with the Offertory, at which the newly married couple may present the offerings of bread and wine.

Preface of the Season

At the Communion, it is appropriate that the newly married couple receive Communion first, after the ministers.

In place of the usual post-communion prayer, the following is said

O God, the giver of all that is true and lovely and gracious: We give you thanks for binding us together in these holy mysteries of the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Grant that by your Holy Spirit, N. and N., now joined in Holy Matrimony, may become one in heart and soul, live in fidelity and peace, and obtain those eternal joys prepared for all who love you; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

As the wedding party leaves the church, a hymn, psalm, or anthem may be sung; or instrumental music may be played.

RUBBER BANDS

When I officiate at a wedding,
I often give each of the couple a large rubber band
with their names and the date of their wedding
written on the inside.

Like a wedding band (the outward and visible sign of the sacrament of marriage)
a rubber band is an unending circle.

But while the wedding ring is made of precious metal,
the rubber band has other qualities:

it's humble in comparison,

it's flexible,

it holds things together,

and you can play with it -

making your spouse laugh in tense times.



Another image I use, and give to the couple is a

SQUARE KNOT

CAN YOU THINK OF WHY I USE THIS IMAGE FOR A MARRIAGE?



(Think of what the qualities of the Square Knot are,
and how each may reflect an aspect of a relationship.)

Are there any other items which may illustrate the commitment of marriage?
I would *not* suggest cement! Why?

Discuss with your class / counselor.

RECONCILIATION

As the Prayers at Marriage (quoted above) indicate,
Reconciliation and Forgiveness is an important aspect
of a meaningful, growing and especially Christian relationship.

A Side-Trip:

Have you ever noticed that the Book of Common Prayer (1979) follows
the pattern of the life of a Christian?

We hope everyone will open the Book and begin each day with

Morning Prayer,

and end each day with

Evening Prayer.

There are devotions for all parts of the day,
and ones to share with your family.

And then the pattern of Services in the Prayer Book follows the Christian Life:

I	Holy Baptism	<i>Religious Emblems, Book 1, grades 1-3</i>
II	Holy Communion	<i>Religious Emblems, Book 2, grades 4-6</i>
III	Confirmation	<i>Religious Emblems, Book 3, grades 7-9</i>
IV	Marriage (“Relationships”)	<i>Religious Emblems, Book 4, grades 10-12</i>
V	Reconciliation	
VI	Ministry to the Sick	
VII	The Time of Death & Burial	

Most likely, you were Baptized as an infant, then were taught and received Holy Communion around age 8 or 9. Then came your Confirmation (BCP p.413ff) , which is next in the “public services.” Some people make a formal “Commitment to Christian Service” going into volunteer agencies or the Armed Forces. Next in the lives of many comes Marriage, or the Blessing of a Life-long Union, and then Thanksgiving for the Birth of a Child. We hope it comes in that order! But it doesn’t always.

What's interesting is that
in-between "Relationships," (Marriage)
and "Healing" (Ministration to the Sick)
comes "Reconciliation" (Confession and Forgiveness).

RELATIONSHIPS
REQUIRE
FORGIVENESS

Remember that Rubber Band image I use for weddings?

How often in your relationships -
family, friend, girlfriend/boyfriend
have you had to or should have
asked for forgiveness,
or offered it to them?



- + Acknowledging your sin / what you've done wrong
- + Asking God's forgiveness
- + Making reparation to the one(s) you offended
- + Working to amend your life/behavior
- + Living in the joy of Christ

There are at least three types of Confession of Sin:

The "General" Confession on Sundays at Holy Communion,
or Morning and Evening Prayer, and Compline;

Ash Wednesday's acknowledgment of our sinful mortality -
corporate and individual

and **Private Confession** -

for those times in your life when you need special forgiveness.

In the Prayer Book Supplement, *Enriching Our Worship*, this prayer is given.

God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you,
opposing your will in our lives.
We have denied your goodness in each other,
in ourselves,
and in the world you have created.
We repent of the evil that enslaves us,
the evil we have done,
and the evil done on our behalf.
Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ,
that we may abide in your love
and serve only your will. Amen.

Then the priest says:

*Almighty God have mercy on you, ✠
forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ,
strengthen you in all goodness,
and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.*

An activity:

pick up a Book of Common Prayer,
and with your counselor,
turn to page 447 and read through the prayers of Confession.

Discuss what each segment, “says” to you? What does it make you feel?

Now, think of those who you have offended, and in quiet, maybe tonight in your room, offer God a prayer. And if there is something that truly troubles you, talk with your priest.

And if you need help and counsel, then go and open your grief to a discreet and understanding priest, and confess your sins, that you may receive the benefit of absolution, and spiritual counsel and advice; to the removal of scruple and doubt, the assurance of pardon, and the strengthening of your faith.

The Exhortation, BCP p. 317

WHEN RELATIONSHIPS END

If you're 16, I'd bet you've already had at least three relationships. What do people feel when a relationship ends? Share with your class/counselor how each of these emotions may hold in a break-up.

Grief

Anger

Guilt

Resentment

Jealousy

Hatred

Retaliation

Fear

Disappointment

Inadequacy

Reconciliation

Growth

Completion

Peace



Bullying
Domestic Violence
Sexual,
Physical,
Mental...



It's

ALL

ABUSE



It happens to guys, too.

Maybe it's happened to someone you know.

Maybe you.



She didn't know it was his
mother's perfume she smelled



"No.
I fell.
Real stupid, I know.
Really. I fell."



THE BIBLE & ABUSE

What, I believe, the Bible is most concerned about,
especially in Jesus' teachings and St. Paul's writings
is the abuse of power,
for example, the human destruction of God's image in Creation,
and particularly the domination of
one person over another.

We call that

Abuse.

In the 5th and 6th chapters of St. Paul's letter to the Church at Ephesus, he admonishes us Christians in our relationships: submitting ourselves to each other, in whatever relationship: Husband and Wife, Child to Parent, Slave to Master.

Look it up. Ephesians chapters 5 & 6.

Think of the Centurion who sends messengers to Jesus to ask for healing for his beloved servant (Luke, chapter 7).

Abuse of power - Roman Officer vs. a Slave?

No. Loving compassion.

ASSIGNMENT:

Look at the images on the previous page and write your own reflections of what they mean to you.

ASSIGNMENT - BIBLE STUDY

These verses are from St. Paul's famous "Love Chapter" 1 Corinthians 13. Write your thoughts on each verse. What do you think the verse means? What is its significance for you? How you feel about the verse. Is there any relevance to you and your family, your best friend, you and your girlfriend/ boyfriend,? Share any of these personal and perhaps private feelings with your priest or counselor. They are there to help you deal with any questions, concerns or issues - particularly as you grow into your own good and healthy relationships - and they will keep them private!



4 Love is patient and kind;

it is not jealous or conceited or proud;

5 love is not ill-mannered or selfish or irritable;

love does not keep a record of wrongs;

6 love is not happy with evil, but is happy with the truth.

continued on next page

7 Love never gives up; and its faith, hope, and patience never fail.

8 Love is eternal.

11 When I was a child, my speech, feelings, and thinking were all those of a child;

Now that I am an adult, I have no more use for childish ways.

Yes, we *have* to talk about it.

There is a recent TV ad with a screen in the middle of the street.

Appearing in turn are a man and a woman,
an African American and a Caucasian
two women
an older person and a younger person (both adults).

“Love Knows No Race, Color or Gender”

check it out on Facebook™



You have probably talked about it in school,
thought about,
heard about it on TV,
in the news,
in Church.

You may be in one of the scenarios yourself,
or know someone in a relationship like these.

Talk with your counselor about it,
and if you feel comfortable enough,
with your classmates.

S E X

(Yeah, you were waiting for it - and I pray you are still waiting!)

ASSIGNMENT 1:

*Read together with your class and/ or counselor St. Paul's writing in 1 Corinthians 6: 12- 20.
Discuss with your class or counselor what this passage means.*

ASSIGNMENT 2:

If you've done the Family Life merit badge, you've had to hold a family meeting to discuss this:

2 "Understanding the growing-up process and how the body changes, and making responsible decisions dealing with sex."

So, you've already thought about this. If you haven't done the merit badge yet, this may help you..

Write, or discuss with your class/ counselor your thoughts on the following words:

Abstinence

Prevention / Protection

Disease

Pregnancy

Love

THE ROLE OF PARENTS

Family Life Merit Badge

If you have not already begun the Family Life Merit Badge (Eagle required!) now is a good time to work with your counselor. Did I mention that it is Eagle Required?

You've been or will be asked these questions. Discuss them with your class and counselor. Share thoughts. Maybe they will help you answer the merit badge questions, if you haven't done them already.

1. Your understanding of the responsibilities of a parent.
2. Your understanding of what makes an effective father and why, and your thoughts on the father's role in the family what makes an effective father

Discuss these with your class/ counselor - and answer them on you Family Life worksheets!

At a Wedding, these words are given to the public at the beginning:

... and, when it is God's will, for the procreation of children and their nurture in the knowledge and love of the Lord. The Book of Common Prayer, p. 423

What does that mean to you? (There is no right or wrong answer).

And in the Thanksgiving for the Birth/Adoption of a Child we offer this prayer:

O God, you have taught us through your blessed Son that whoever receives a little child in the name of Christ receives Christ himself: We give you thanks for the blessing you have bestowed upon this family in giving them a child. Confirm their joy by a lively sense of your presence with them, and give them calm strength and patient wisdom as they seek to bring this child to love all that is true and noble, just and pure, lovable and gracious, excellent and admirable, following the example of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

BCP. pg.442

What does that mean to you? (There is no right or wrong answer).

CONGRATULATIONS!

You have now learned about as much as can be expected
for the Scout Religious Emblems at this point in your development.

I hope you began with

BAPTISM

Grades 1-3

continued with

COMMUNION

Grades 4-6

were

CONFIRMED in your Faith

Grades 7-9

and now you have explored past, current, and maybe even future, eternal

RELATIONSHIPS

Grades 10-12

You, your counselor/pastor/priest, and your parent/guardian

will sign the application below and submit it for acceptance.

Then you will receive your recognition (or emblem) which should be presented to you in

in your parish Church - maybe on Scout Sunday in February!

or possibly at a Scout Court of Honor.

As you continue your journey to flight as an Eagle, my prayers are with you.

May God's Blessings be with you throughout your growth in the love of Christ,
your dedication and work through Scouting,

your commitment to serve Christ in the world

and your love for that one special person in your life.

Yours,

Fr. Ed

date finished _____

signed _____ *scout*

signed _____ *parent/guardian*


signed _____ *leader/counselor*

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Certificate of Eligibility: The clergy's signature is preferred; however, other signatures will be accepted.

I certify that the candidate has successfully completed the requirements for the *God and Life* program and has presented his/her work to the clergy for final approval.

Signature _____ Date _____

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