WORTHY LIFE PROGRAM – MOUNTAIN LIONS

SPIRITUAL THEME FOR MOUNTAIN LIONS: My Family, My Community, and Biblical Manhood

Key Goal: To develop faith in the Lord through learning (discipleship) and activities (worship and ministry).

TRAIL GUIDE INSTRUCTIONS: The requirements listed below are to help the Trailmen develop their faith in the Lord through learning (discipleship) and activities (worship and ministry). The requirements are to be included in regularly scheduled or “hit the trail” meetings or at a campout as the Trail Guide would plan them. A suggestion in planning would be to divide the requirements into sections so that they will be completed according to a certain timeline that can fit in a one or two year period. The Family Values of Faith/Family Point are created for the Trailmen to work with their Family in these areas of discipleship in the home.

What You'll Need:
- Bible for the Trail Guide or Ranger (Required for each activity)
- Bible for each Mountain Lion (Recommended that each Mountain Lion have his personal Bible, so that he can learn and practice finding reference points in God’s Word)
- See individual requirements for additional materials needed

MOUNTAIN LIONS REQUIREMENTS: Complete all II Requirements.

1. ________ Perform an act of service for your church, your Troop's church, or through one of their ministries.

2. ________ Perform or lead grace before a meal on a campout.

3. ________ The Lord's Prayer Study (Matthew 6:9-15, Luke II:2-4): Explain "Give us this day our daily bread" – How does God provide for me daily? How do I place my trust in God that He will provide – and "lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil" – We are always tempted to do the wrong things, so how does my faith work with my decision making?
   Go over this - DOING GOD’S WILL – Think about the decision and ask yourself questions – How is this going to affect me? How will this affect my family? How will this affect my walk with Christ? (Talk about what it means to WALK WORTHY)

4. ________ Attend a special Christmas, Easter, or other church holiday service and discuss what you learned with your family.

5. ________ FAMILY POINT: Obstacles of Faith: Do this requirement at home with Parents. When talking about Obstacles of our Faith, here are several to go over with your Mountain Lion:
a. **Warnings of What's Ahead** – prepare your children for what's ahead, what they may face and what they may deal with.

Parents need to take an opportunity to set children up for success as teenagers by sharing how God sees them. Assure the children of their importance to God. Help them find their talents and spiritual gifts by reminding them they are wonderfully made (Psalm 139), encouraging them to do great things. (Jeremiah 29:11 and Ephesians 2:10)

For example, family ministry leaders today are sharing talks about purity and what the Bible teaches about purity. It is necessary to warn youth of what's ahead in the teenage years and what they will face. Consider talking to your children’s minister, youth leader, or minister regarding resources that will help communicate this information.

b. **Self:** Temptations, selfishness, and pride are all obstacles to living a selfless Christian life. Sometimes we hear phrases like, "It's a constant battle to do what's right."

The gospel is clear: We are to also deny ourselves. (Luke 9:23) This is hard when the culture is saying 'you' are the most important thing. This affects all aspects of life: how you pursue relationships, dating, marriage, and also how you see God relationally. Putting God first in our decisions and thoughts will help when dealing with Pride. Go over the fruits of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22-25.

c. **Peers:** As a youth coordinator, Donna Thurston wrote, "I think the biggest obstacles are peers who don't value or aren't invested in spiritual development...If they're getting mixed messages from many other sources inside or outside the church, this can be very confusing." (Children's Ministry Magazine 2005 – Stephanie Martin)

Our children may learn from friends that being a Christian means one who can’t have any fun. "At my school," says Samantha, "there are so many things you hear, from swearing to gossip to nasty jokes. It's hard to stay on track when you have friends and people in your classes who enjoy that stuff, and you want to fit in." (Children's Ministry Magazine 2005 – Stephanie Martin)

(Article Contribution - *Stephanie Martin is a freelance writer and editor in Colorado. Originally published in March-April, 2005 in Children's Ministry Magazine*)

6. ________ HERO OF FAITH: Timothy: The Primary Role of a Man of God

**TRAIL GUIDE:** You can teach these lessons during an alternate meeting and get help from the Troop chaplain if you desire. Also, you may teach these lessons at a campout setting with father's teaching their sons, or you teaching them.

**INTRODUCTION:** Who is Timothy in the Bible? He was a disciple, a student of Paul. Paul wrote two letters to Timothy, and we can read what he said when he was teaching him.
Timothy had learned about Jesus when he was a little boy. His mother and grandmother taught him about Jesus and helped him learn what it meant to believe in Him. The Bible does not tell us exactly what happened to Timothy's father. All we know is that his mother and grandmother raised him. Paul knew that Timothy would be a good friend and helper as they traveled to tell people about Jesus. Paul asked Timothy to join him. Timothy traveled with Paul and Silas. He helped many people know about Jesus and grow in their faith in Jesus Christ.

What Lessons can I learn from Timothy’s letters about being a Man of God?

Lesson #1: INTEGRITY: (2 Tim. 1:1-7): The quality of being honest and fair. Integrity is part of your faith, especially when you walk with God in an open and honest relationship. You are to be honest and fair with your parents, family, and friends.

Lesson #2: CONVICTION: (2 Tim. 1:8-12): It is what we accept and what we do not accept, according to the Bible. In our lives, that which we stand against and that which we stand for are very clear. Begin the foundation of what you believe. Your parents and clergy can help with that.

Lesson #3: COURAGE: (2 Tim. 1:13-18): If I have to give my life for my convictions, I am willing to do it. Think about the story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the book of Daniel, saying that they weren’t going to bow before this idol; we are not going to worship you; we are not going to pray to you to the king. Then they said our God is able to deliver us and if he does not, we still are not going to. That is courage.

Lesson #4: PERSEVERANCE: (2 Tim. 2:8-13): Perseverance is the key to the whole thing. Staying on course. Hebrews 12:1-3 (NASB) tells a story of what perseverance is: “Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.” Running the race with endurance and fixing our eyes on Jesus.

Lesson #5: FOCUS: (2 Tim. 2:14-19): Focus needs to be the one thing that God has called you to do and to give your best. Paul said this one thing I do forgetting those things which are behind, I press toward those things which are in front. (Phil. 3:13)

7. _______ HERO OF FAITH: Peter (Mark 14:27-31 and John 21:15-25)

Lesson: The lesson comes from Mark Chapter 14 (show them in your Bible). This story is about the disciple Peter, one of Jesus’ closest followers. Let’s go back
to the Last Supper. After Jesus shares His last meal with His disciples, he tells them they will all fall away and abandon Him, their Shepherd. Peter declares to Jesus, “Even if all the others fall away, I will not!” But Jesus knows all. He tells Peter, “Today, even this very night, before the rooster crows, you yourself will disown me three times.” But Peter did not believe he would ever do such a thing! He kept insisting, “Even if I have to die with You, I will not deny You!” The others said the same thing also.

Now we are going to skip ahead. Remember that Peter kept falling asleep in the garden instead of praying like Jesus asked. Soon Judas came with a group of men who wanted to kill Jesus. Judas showed them who Jesus was by giving Him a kiss. They arrested Jesus, and all of the disciples fled because they were afraid! Peter decided to follow them at a distance to see where they took Jesus. Peter came to a courtyard, and a servant girl of a high priest said, “You were with Jesus!” But Peter denied it, saying, “I do not know or understand what you are talking about.” Then he went out onto the porch. The same servant girl saw him and began to tell others, “This is one of Jesus’ followers!” But again, Peter denied that he followed Jesus. After a little while, others began saying to Peter, “Surely you are one of them, one of Jesus’ followers!” Peter acted angry! He yelled, “I do not know this man you are talking about!!” Immediately a rooster crowed a second time....Peter remembered what Jesus said, “Before a rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times.” Peter began to weep.

**Discussion Questions:**

1. Did what Jesus say to Peter come true? (Yes)
2. Why do you think Peter began to weep when he remembered what Jesus said? (He felt ashamed (bad, guilty) for what he had done)
3. Was Peter guilty? (Yes) Should he have felt ashamed? (Yes)
4. What do you think Jesus thinks of Peter? (Allow them to contemplate this without giving them an answer quite yet)
5. When we sin, it makes us feel very bad sometimes too. Have you ever felt ashamed? Can you tell me about it? (Allow time for them to discuss)

**Closing Comments:** Peter wept because he felt ashamed and guilty. He saw how sinful he was. It embarrassed him to know what an awful sin he had done. We are sinners. We will always sin. This means we will often feel ashamed like Peter did in today’s lesson. But Jesus was not angry with Peter. In fact, His love is so perfect, He chose to use Peter for great things even though Peter denied Him. Jesus forgave Peter – (read the passage in John 21) - Peter became a great man of God who shared the Gospel with many, many people later.
8. ______ FAMILY DEVOTIONAL: Talk about ways to impact the community as a family as Jesus did.  
(This family devotional is located at the end of this section)

9. ______ FAMILY DEVOTIONAL: Lesson on what the Bible says about the family  
(This family devotional is located on the last page of this section.)

10. ______ SUMMARY FOR THE MOUNTAIN LIONS WORTHY LIFE PROGRAM
   (Talk to the Mountain Lion about what he learned during this stage of the Worthy Life Program)
   a. a. What is a biblical family?  
      (People loving God with all their heart, mind, and soul)
   b. What is parenting?  
      (Parenting is to lead children to love the Lord with their heart, soul, and mind)
   c. b. What qualities about biblical manhood did I learn from Timothy?  
      (Integrity, Conviction, Courage, Perseverance, and Focus) Why are these qualities important?  
      (I need these to walk worthy with Christ in my life)
   d. What lesson did I learn from Peter’s denial?  
      (Sometimes we can make mistakes, but God can still use us, I can be forgiven for my sins through Christ....we get back up and start WALKING WORTHY)
   e. In doing God’s will, what questions should I ask myself?  
      (think about the decision and ask yourself questions – How is this going to affect me?  
      How will this affect my family? How will this affect my walk with Christ?)
   f. How can my family help in the community?  
      (They can give many reasons....and also talk about why we should help)
FAMILY DEVOTIONAL:
CARE FOR THE COMMUNITY AS A FAMILY

INTRODUCTION: Do you think children can help others? What are some ways you can help your friends? Can moms and dads help care for other people? There are many ways we can help. We can share a lunch with a friend or do extra chores at home. God can use adults like our parents and children, too, to care for other people and share God's love. In our story today, Jesus and a little boy together helped thousands of people!

As a family, read John 6:5-13.

The Bible says: "Bear one another’s burdens." Galatians 6:2

**Discussion Questions:** Let’s take a closer look at the story we heard today.

1. How many men came to see Jesus? (5,000 men)
2. Who gave Jesus his lunch? (A boy)
3. What did the boy have for his lunch? (5 loaves of bread and 2 fish)

**POINT:** The boy had no idea what was about to happen. Can you imagine having someone take your small lunch and trying to feed 5,000 hungry men? With the faith of the boy and the help of the disciples, Jesus performed a miracle and fed the 5,000! The boy and the disciples served God by helping to feed the people.

What are some ways you can help others? How can we help others in our neighborhood? Why is it important to help people?

We should pray for God to show us ways that we can serve Him. Serving God is a way of showing our obedience to Him. He wants us to care and share with other people. There are so many things you can do for others even though you are a child, just like the boy in the story. We need to find things that we are good at and use those things to serve God.

Let’s pray to God for His help:

Dear God, Help me to find things that I am good at and use those things to help others. Show me ways I can help people and share Your love. Help me to obey You in all I do. In Jesus’ Name - Amen.

**TO DO:** Find a project your family can do for your neighbor.
FAMILY DEVOTIONAL:
WHAT THE BIBLE HAS TO SAY ABOUT FAMILY

1. Families in the Bible were important to God. The role of the child was to learn about God! Home is to be the perfect school, and the parent is the perfect teacher. Father is preacher and priest, and the mother is teacher. Both of them are needed!

2. Family mandate is biblical, and we should follow God’s commands and God’s ways, “…and that you may tell in the hearing of your son, and of your grandson, how I have dealt harshly with the Egyptians and what signs I have done among them, that you may know that I am the LORD.” (Exodus 10:2)

3. WHY??
   a. FAMILY is God’s first way
      i. Adam and Eve was the beginning – man and woman
      ii. Deut. 6 teaches about the role of the family
   b. What was FAMILY compared to?
      i. The church is a family (Eph. 2:19; 1 Cor. 1:10)
      ii. The Biblical doctrine of adoption is for us all (Romans 8:14-17)
      iii. The church is the bride of Christ (Eph. 5:22-32)
      iv. The saints do the ministry (Eph. 4:11-12)

The Great Commandment: And Jesus said to the Pharisee, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." (Matthew 22:37)

**Joined together with:** "And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates." (Deut. 6:6-9)

The Biblical Family is defined as People loving God with all of their heart, soul, and mind. Parenting is to lead children to love the Lord with their heart, soul, and mind.