

HADES god of the underworld, the dead and hidden wealth of the earth

Organise a joint activity with a Spiritual theme

The spiritual world is the realm of emotion, ethics, beauty, and the meaning of life. Spirituality is like a painting. One can look at the same painting and argue about its beauty, depth, message etc. These statements are like the spiritual world. They cannot be demonstrated to be true or false.

One may see beauty in a painting that another finds to be ugly. Neither person is wrong. A purely material examination of a painting would reveal that it is a piece of cloth covered with a substance that reflects many different wavelengths of light. There is no material way to measure or even talk about the beauty of a painting. Spiritual concepts allow us to give meaning to the cold facts of the material world.

Ideas for such joint activities:

- Visit St John's Cathedral and discuss the Mattia Preti's paintings and how they can engage people in finding their spiritual balance.
- Visit a synagogue or another religious place of worship and discuss the difference between faiths.
- Visit an immigrant open centre and discuss values and beliefs with some of the people living there, trying also to understand their suffering
- Visit a centre which deals with social problems like San Blas Rehabilitation centre

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Plan and carry out an Act Of Worship



The Bible doesn't give a formal definition of worship. But perhaps we can start by seeing what various words for worship mean.

The English word "worship" comes from two Old English words: weorth, which means "worth," and scipe or ship, which means something like shape or "quality."

So **worth-ship** is the quality of having worth or of being worthy. When we worship, we are saying that God has worth, that he is worthy.

There is a worship that expresses the **heart**, and worship that involves the **mind**, and a worship that involves the **body**.

There is a worship that is giving **praise** upward, a worship that is **receiving** instructions from above, and a worship that **carries out** instruction in the world around us.

As you can see, there are different ways of worship. Plan an act of worship to your liking and carry it out in a suitable occasion such as a camp, a hike, your HQ etc. Some ideas:

- Rock Mass
- Maundy Thursdays
- Meditation Sessions

http://www.experientialworship.com/ideas.html

http://pinterest.com/alilanza/worship-youth-god-ideas/

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Organise a series of activities for another Section based on values

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Scouting is based on a Value System. The mission of scouting specifically says that a scouting is to contribute to the education of young people, through a value system based on the Scout Promise and Law, to help build a better world...

Your role in this task is not about leading a religious ceremony, but is to help young members grow in spiritual development by reflecting on their experiences and living out its consequences.

What do we mean by VALUES?

Values are standards or principles considered important in life. They come from within us and they can also be practiced.

Values from within

- Love
- Kindness
- Compassion
- Mercy
- Sympathy
- Empathy

Values to be practised

- Punctuality
- Discipline
- Obedience
- Behaviour
- Conduct
- Character

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Organise a series of activities for another Section based on values

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Values bring quality and meaning to life and give a person his/her identity and character. Values act as guidelines in what we should and should not do. They make us realise that what we are is more important than what we have.

Taking the above into consideration, decide which section you would like to work with and discuss with the section leader on how best to approach these activities.

If you decide to do this activity in your **colony**, you can base this activity on the Friendship Challenge.

If you decide to do this activity in your **pack**, you can base this activity on the Spirituality sessions (bronze, silver and gold).

If you decide to do this activity in your **troop**, you can base this activity on the Spiritual sessions as well.

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Within the unit discuss a moral issue and finally create a presentation using any media you want.



"A man does what he must - in spite of personal consequences, in spite of obstacles and dangers and pressures - and that is the basis of all human morality"- Winston Churchill

Within the unit discuss about moral issues and debate some of the below points. After the debate, present your conclusions to your leaders.

- gambling
- tattoos
- lying (comes in several forms)
- being drunk or disorderly
- violence toward another human being
- fighting in a war
- abortion
- murder
- idol or animal worship
- envy
- illegal drug use
- stealing
- blasphemy
- fornication
- the lottery
- covetousness
- homosexuality
- pornography
- cheating
- maligning
- false testimony

"Morality is simply the attitude we adopt towards people whom we personally dislike." - Oscar Wilde

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Within the unit watch a film dealing with a moral issue, discuss and decide on how to implement in your group



Morality is the differentiation of intentions, decisions, and *actions* between those that are "good" (or right) and those that are "bad" (or wrong).

Therefore a moral issue is any issue that can either help or harm someone.

Within the unit, watch a film with a moral story behind it and discuss between you. Try and compare whether this also happens in your unit and how you can make it better.

Some film ideas:

- Erin Brockovich
- Brave (Cartoon)
- Marmaduke (Film)
- Up (Cartoon)
- The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas (Film)
- 50/50 (Film)
- Forrest Gump
- The Butterfly Effect

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HADES god of the underworld, the dead and hidden wealth of the earth

Investigate two subjects which affect our body and mind

Every action of the mind produces a certain effect in the body. When the mental action is weak or superficial, the physical effect may be too slight to be noticed, but when this action is both deep and strong, the results will be so clearly in evidence that any one can detect them.

These effects, however, are not simply functional, nor are it the nervous system alone that is acted upon. Likewise, injecting our body with chemicals, drugs, alcohol and one hundred other things also affect the mind.

Discuss some of the below topics and research what effect they have on our body and mind. Present your findings to your Unit or the VSL and discuss.

- Smoking
- Drugs
- Sleep
- Personal hygiene
- Skin care
- Sugar
- Stress
- Alcohol
- Caffeine
- Running
- Music
- Food
- Smell

It would be ideal to get professional to also discuss with them these issues.

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"Your beliefs become your thoughts,
Your thoughts become your words,
Your words become your actions,
Your actions become your habits,
Your habits become your values,
Your values become your destiny." - Mahatma Gandhi

Values are like thoughts. In his speech Mahatma Gandhi used the above quote which if well understood, gives us a lot of food for thought.

As Scouts we cannot separate our personal life from the scouting life. Being a scout is a way of living which implies that you have to always act in good faith, adhering to the promise and law in everything you do.

Baden-Powell left behind him a legacy, a brother hood as well as writings and books. In his writings he often talks about spirituality and values.

Here are some B-P quotes which may assist you in this requirement. Ponder about their meaning and use them as your value theme:

- Loyalty is a feature in a boy's character that inspires boundless hope.
- We never fail when we try to do our duty; we always fail when we neglect to do it.
- In Scouting, a boy is encouraged to educate himself instead of being instructed.
- If you make listening and observation your occupation you will gain much more than you can by talk.

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Take an active part in a project examining your own faith such as a retreat

Human beings are a naturally curious species. Along with this curiosity comes a tendency to examine many different things during the course of our lives.

We examine our pocket money regularly to make sure the balance is correct and to see where we are spending our money. We go to the doctor for a check-up to find out if we have any health issues. We examine our grades (and sometimes even those of our friends) to see where strengths and opportunities exist. There are literally countless things that we choose to examine.

However, are we examining where our faith lies? When we look at ourselves honestly to determine if we are practicing what we preach, are we keeping ourselves on track?

Attend or organise a day or two to discuss and delve into spirituality and how, as teenagers, can accept God in our lives and still be cool. Invite over your group's chaplain or any other spiritual leader to help you in your quest.

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Take an active part in a project examining a faith other than your own



Buddha has said: 'There is only one way of driving out Hate in the world, and that is by bringing in Love'.

The opportunity lies before us where in place of selfishness and hostility we can infuse goodwill and peace as the spirit in the coming generation.

We know nowadays, more clearly than ever before, that there are very many different religions throughout the world. Since there are many religions, it is natural for us to ask what they have in common, and how they differ. However, while it is easy to ask many questions about religions, there may not always be easy answers to our questions.

So here are some questions to assist you in understanding other religions:

- What do you know about other religions?
- Whom do you know who practices a different faith?
- What do you think the major religions have in common?
- What might Christians learn from Jews, or Jews from Muslims, or atheists from believers?

"Finding common ground among faiths can help us bridge needless divides at a time when unified action is more crucial than ever." - 14th Dalai Lama

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Rewrite the Law and Promise in your own words

The principles of the Scout Movement are defined as "adherence to spiritual principles, loyalty to the religion that expresses them and acceptance of the duties resulting therefrom".

It should be noted that the word "God", also covers religions which are non-monotheistic, such as Hinduism, or those which do not recognize a personal God, such as Buddhism.

When asked where religion came into Scouting and Guiding, Baden-Powell replied "It does not come in at all. It is already there. It is a fundamental factor underlying Scouting and Guiding".

A careful analysis of the Founder's writings shows that the concept of a force above man is basic to Scouting. The whole educational approach of the Movement consists in helping young people to transcend the material world and go in search of the spiritual values of life.

The Scout Promise and Law have been written a very long time ago and many of us feel that this is now out dated. Keeping the above in mind, as a Unit, rewrite the Law and Promise in your own words. Discuss whether this revised form is more meaningful to you and why.

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Scouting is a mixed gender/cultural way of life. How can we all integrate? Discuss and present

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We are all dedicated to helping all young people fulfil their potential and become confident, responsible citizens. To achieve this aim, we need to ensure that there are as few barriers as possible to them joining the Movement. The Scout Association of Malta welcomes members regardless of their gender identity.

Co-education in Scouting means that all young people are given the opportunity to understand the opposite sex and empathise with them.

"Rock climbing and orienteering isn't just for boys; cookery and needlework isn't just for girls. The only splitting of the sexes should be in bathrooms and locker rooms. Otherwise, we're all in this world together and we can work, play and learn together."

"The whole principle of the scouts should be helping each other - not restricting a movement to 50% of the children who may want to be a part of it."

The above two statements are just a guide to help your debates. What are your thoughts on the subject? Research and explore other ideas around other scouting associations around the world. Why not try and draw up a survey on how many associations around the world are mixed gender? And why not take the discussion to focus on diversity (religion, race etc)?

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Take part in Spiritual activities within your community

Society expects us to be responsible citizens. One step to becoming a participating member of your community is to learn about the various groups of people in your neighbourhood, and to try to understand how local systems can best serve everyone.

This cannot happen unless you get to know about your community and share with other groups in it. Those who are aware of "social, cultural and spiritual needs" are more responsible citizens. This understanding is essential to developing a sense of responsibility; it will also help you establish good relationships with others.

Participate in a project related to issues such as bullying, child labour, religious intolerance, street violence, peace or conflict resolution or human rights issues. Share your experience in a written or oral report to your unit and leaders.

Examples:

- Child Labour SCREAM project
 (speak to the Training & Programme Department: tc@scout.org.mt)
- Walk For Hope plan and organise a Walk For Hope dealing with a particular issue such as Domestic Violence, Conflicts, Child Education rights

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Identify a weak point in your character and device a plan/means of how to develop it.

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Identifying your weak points is usually not an easy process. It is very natural for people to be able to describe their strong points well, but having a hard time really defining their weak points, or vice-versa. Luckily, there are methods of identifying your weak points by knowing your strong points, and the other way around!

Some weaknesses you will always have. They may be so deeply ingrained in our personality type that they are a part of who we are. Although you may always have them, they don't have to remain weak.

Michael Jordan's left hand was his weakness. Although through diligence and hard work, he made his left hand stronger than the average player's right hand, yet his left was still considered his weakness.

Weaknesses are human. Real weaknesses might include:

- Being overly critical
- Being suspicious (of authority, of peers)
- Being too demanding
- Procrastinating
- Being too talkative
- Being too sensitive
- Exhibiting a lack of assertiveness
- Exhibiting a lack of social tact

We suggest you read the **Strengths & Weaknesses** booklet. You can download it from Scout Keeper, Downloads section, Venture section. Find some time to meditate and think.

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Talk with the Cub Scout Leader and carry out the Spirituality session to the cubs in either the Bronze, Silver or Gold Arrow



Spirituality is a fundamental part of the human experience and a part of the heritage we pass down to our children. Regardless of religion, it instills in kids what will become their framework of ethics and personal conduct throughout their life.

No matter what the religion of the family is, or if the family has no religion at all, it's important to teach kids to respect all points of view and all beliefs. With so much intolerance showing on the media, kids may get the impression that people from other cultures are "the bad guys" and this assumption can evolve to an intolerant attitude towards colleagues or promote bullying. The best way to teach children about different cultures is by telling them stories from other countries and play games so they understand the differences.

Talk with the Cub Scout Leader and carry out the Spirituality session to the cubs in either the Bronze, Silver or Gold Arrow. The attached document may be of assistance to prepare games and crafts.



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Organise an activity for persons outside scouting suffering from an integration/diversity issue

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WHAT IS DIVERSITY?

Diversity means difference. And people's differences can be many and varied: race, culture, national origin, geographical region, gender, religion, ethnicity, disability, socioeconomic differences, family structure, health, values and more...

Diversity work is about bringing together individuals with varied demographic, cultural, human, intellectual, and philosophical differences to help create an environment that honours and respects those differences in a safe and supportive environment.

Diversity is rooted in equality but it is more than just being 'politically correct' or having an equal opportunities policy with an aim to minimizing the effect of discrimination and encouraging equal treatment. It is a move away from policies and procedures, embedding diversity into the organization's culture, and celebrating difference.

With this in mind, are you able to plan an activity (a hike, games or a 2 day camp) for persons outside scouting?

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Plan, organise and present the Scout's Own Service at a camp.

What yarns and songs do you know.

Scouts' Owns are made up of a combination of stories with a moral or spiritual message; metaphors, such as describing learning in terms of packing a backpack for life; prayers, where hopes, fears, emotions, thankfulness are expressed; songs, which usually are prayers; and sharing between those present.

These elements can be combined in a variety of ways. One should not include any elements that will not lead towards the goal of the Scouts' Own. For example, songs should not be included unless the members would really enjoy singing them. Campfires are the place to introduce Scouts to singing, not Scouts' Own. These elements also need not be combined in a manner that resembles a church service. When telling a story or parable, one need not explain its meaning. A parable hides the truth from those who are listening until they are ready to understand it. The Scouts may be turned off by the moralizing instead of leaving thinking about the story, later to find meaning in it.

A simple plan for a Scout's Own:

- Prayer
- Song
- Small story with a moral
- Closing thought

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Opening Prayer

Dear Lord, Thank you for this beautiful earth which you have created for us to live on. We are grateful for the abundant food we have to eat, and for the many wonderful places we can visit. We are grateful for this campsite where we can enjoy the bush. We ask you to help us look after it, that it will continue to be a special place for Scouts in years to come. We pray that we might keep the tenth Scout law, and care for the environment, to make this world a better and more beautiful place. In Jesus' name, Amen

Closing Prayer

Dear Lord, We thank you for this opportunity to meet together and think about the environment. We are grateful for the beauty around us, and for the Scouting program that allows us so many chances to get outside and see all your creations. We are grateful for all our friends in Scouts and for our leaders who give up their time to help us in life. We ask that you will keep us safe throughout the rest of this camp, and this we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen

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A simple story - Scout's Own



Three Trees

A long time ago, three trees started their lives as tiny seedlings, struggling to grow upwards towards the light. As they grew they dreamed about the magnificent trees that they would become, and then wondered about the uses to which they might be put.

One day the first of the trees confided its hopes and dreams to the other two. "When I am fully grown," it said, "I would like to be turned into a beautiful bed. I can see my trunk being turned into the planks and posts for a big four-poster bed, with a hand-carved headboard, and wood-turned legs, and fitted out with the finest linen in a castle for a king." The other trees agreed that this was an impressive ambition.

The second tree summoned the courage to confess its own fantasy. "When I am fully grown," it said, "the strong centre of my trunk will be laid down as a keel for a mighty sailing ship. I will grow so tall that the top of my trunk will form a towering mast that will carry a great expanse of sails and be strong enough to withstand any wind. And I will sail across the oceans and carry rich treasures in my cargo." The other trees sighed in admiration at the thought.

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The third tree hesitated a moment before admitting its ambitions. "When I am fully grown," it said, "I want to be made into a beautiful monument, something that people will look to and admire. A marvellous thing, a surprising thing that lifts people's souls and makes them feel joy and hope." The other trees thought this was the most inspiring desire of all.

Years passed and the three trees reached maturity.

One day the first tree trembled in anticipation as it was chopped down and taken away. To its dismay no one took its timber and turned it into a beautiful bed. Instead its wood was hewn roughly into slats and it was made into a feed box in a stable. It felt disgusted that it was filled with hay and had to endure the snuffling of donkeys and goats.

The second tree held onto its dream as it was felled and cut up. Instead of being turned into an impressive ship, however, its timber was turned into short planks and a stumpy mast, and gradually it took the shape of a fishing boat. Instead of plying the vast oceans, it made its way around a tiny inland lake, seeming to shudder whenever its hold was filled with smelly fish.

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The third tree, knowing nothing of the fate of the other two trees, imagined all sorts of possible designs for a suitable monument when the time came for it to be cut down. In vain it waited for an artist or craftsman to commence work on its beautiful timber; instead it was chopped in two, and the shorter piece was attached across the longer. As it was dragged to the top of a hill it felt horrified as it realised it was to be used for an execution.

But God knows the purpose of all things. One night a miracle happened and a special baby was wrapped in swaddling clothes and placed in a rough-hewn manger bed in a stable in Bethlehem. Thirty years later, a master teacher preached a sermon, spoke wonderful parables, and calmed a raging storm from the deck of a fishing boat in the Sea of Galilee. Three years later still, that same Jesus was crucified on a wooden cross on Calvary, offering himself as a sacrifice for all people who sin, and giving them hope of overcoming their faults and obtaining forgiveness and resurrection.

Without realising it, the ambition of each tree was fulfilled beyond measure.

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Save a couple of lives by donating some blood. Organise a blood donating event for your unit and group leaders.



When you give blood, you'll feel good about saving someone else's life.

Who knows, it might be your friend, coworker or even, a member of your own family.

The act of giving blood is often said to be a purely altruistic act, something that we do out of the goodness of our hearts, for the benefits of others. Certainly most ad campaigns for blood emphasise this altruistic quality.

Organise a blood donating event for your unit and group leaders. The National Blood Transfusion Service, is situated at St. Luke's Square, G'Mangia and is open daily from 8.00a.m. till 6.00p.m., including Sundays and Public Holidays.

The Gozo General Hospital, Blood Donation Department opens from 8.00 a.m. to 11.30 a.m. from Mondays to Fridays, and Saturday, from 8.00 a.m. till 11.00 a.m. Every 4 weeks, the Gozo Blood Donation Department opens on a Sunday. For details view schedule on this link:

http://www.gov.mt/en/Pages/Blood%20Donation%20Unit.aspx

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