

Kamp KNOTS

Knots LAW: Reverent



Weekend Meditations, Graces and Worship Outline

Adapted from the Religious Relations Committee Capitol Area Council 2005 Daily Meditations, Scripture selections are from World Scriptures, Paragon House:St.Paul,1991, MacScouter's Big 'A Scout is Reverent' Resource Book, and the The Big Book of Scout Worship Services. Sources also found on the internet and at USScouts.org

Compiled and Edited for Kamp KNOTS by Rich Diesslin.
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Note: For best results, print as a pdf booklet.

Use of this Vesper's Guide

A scout is reverent. Kamp KNOTS wishes to encourage your unit or group to share vespers and a worship service during your weekend with us. It's a vital part of the scout law and enriches your experience at camp.

Chaplain's Aide or Sr. Patrol Leader (or equivalent) may use this guide to lead devotions for their unit while at Kamp KNOTS for the weekend. Any scout or, worst case, Scoutmaster, can use this guide to lead vespers and/or the duty can also be divided among several interested in participating.

This guide is divided into these sections:

Some Graces – add some fun to your meal time with these graces

Friday through Sunday Vespers - use the scripture and meditations after cracker barrel, to close your campfire, before bed or whenever seems like a good break in the day. Morning and evening prayers are a good way to set-up and recap the message.

Worship Service Outline – simple a set of suggestions for a worship service, often done on Sunday mornings before or after breaking camp. There are several “scouts’ own” resources available on the internet to assist with future worship services.

The staff of Kamp KNOTS hopes you find this guide useful and we wish you a fun and safe outing here at camp!

Some Graces

A Scout's Grace (2007 Rich Diesslin)

For fellowship and friends and fun;
For love and life and liberty;
For scouting and service and support;
For camp and country and cosmos;
We count our blessings and thank god!
Amen

The Philmont Grace

For food, for raiment,
For life, for opportunity,
For fellowship and friendship
We thank thee, o lord.
Amen

JOHNNY APPLESEED GRACE

Oh the Lord is good to me
And so I thank the Lord
For giving me the things I need
The sun and the wind and the apple seed
Oh, The Lord is good to me!

RUB-A-DUB GRACE

Rub-a-dub-dub
Thanks for the grub
Yeah God!

Rock You Grace

The Tune: (We Will Rock You)

Heavenly Father, Lord and King,
You provide us with everything.
We've got Food on our plate,
Tastin' great.
Thanks for the food we already ate.
Singing thank you, Father, thank you!
Thank you, Father, thank you!

World So Sweet Grace

Just a simple, fast grace.
Thank you for the world so sweet.
Thank you for the food we eat.
Thank you for the birds that sing.
Thank you God for everything.

Blessing Hymn

(Tune: Edelweiss)

Come dear Lord, be our guest
As we gather together.
May our heart glow with love,
Keep us close to you ever.

Friendship and joy, may they
bloom and grow.
bloom and grow forever,
Bless our homes, bless our friends,
Bless our common endeavors.

Thank you God, for this day,
Bless all those who greet it.
May your love glow with peace,
may your love go forth from us.

Friendship and peace may they bloom and
grow
Bloom and grow forever.

Bless our friends, bless our work
bless each of us forever.

We Know, We Know

(Tune: Hi Ho Hi HO)

We know, we know,
from whom all blessing flow
We thank God then
We say Amen
We know, we know!
(We know, We know, We know -
repeat 'til tired!)

Friday: Cooperation References

Israel's reconciliation with God can be achieved only when they are all one brotherhood.
-Judaism. Talmud, Menahot 27a

The believers indeed are brothers; so set things right between your two brothers, and fear God haply so you will find mercy. –Islam. Koran 49.10

“Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.” –Jesus, Christianity. John 17.20-21

It is because one antelope will blow the dust from the other's eye that two antelopes walk together. –African Traditional Religions. Akan Proverb (Ghana)

Let your aims be common,
And your hearts of one accord,
And all of you be of one mind,
So you may live well together.
-Hinduism. Rig Veda 10.191.2-4

Maintain religion, and do not stir up any division within it. –Islam. Koran 42.13

Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and no city or house divided against itself will stand. –Christianity. Matthew 12.25

There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. –Christianity. Galatians 3.28

Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labor.
-Judaism and Christianity. Ecclesiastes 4:9

People of All Colors - I was born with a bronze skin, and I like it. Some of my friends were born white or black or yellow. They were not consulted. But that's all right. There are yellow roses, white roses and red roses, and the fragrance of the one is about as nice as another. I hope my children will live in a world where people of all colors can sit and work together. -Native American Chief Walking Buffalo of the Stoney Indians

Friday: Cooperating Reflection

Thought for the Day: Someone once said, "When you help someone up a hill, you are a little nearer to the top yourself." Life is like that in almost all we do. Any job is made easier and lighter if you have help. Any wonderful scene, great movies, excellent book, or tasty meal are much better if they are shared. Anytime we truly share in something with another person, we cooperate with them. We decide, "I'll do this and you do that, and we'll get through this together."

Every baseball, basketball, or football team depends on cooperation. "I'll pass the ball to you, and you put it through the hoop." Cooperation has served humanity through the centuries. It has been found to be one of the most successful means of accomplishing great things. An old adage says that it's surprising how much you can get done if you don't care who gets the credit.

God wants us to learn to cooperate. He made it almost impossible for us to accomplish certain things without help and cooperation. At first, we sometimes balk at the need to share a burden with someone else, but eventually, we learn to do our best work with a trusted, cooperative partner.

We can learn a great deal about cooperation from our summer camp experience. After all, it takes cooperation and patience to live successfully in such close quarters. If you get frustrated with your fellow Scouts, ask for God's help. He will bless you and your life will be richer and fuller.

Questions for Discussion:

1. What are some of the obvious benefits of cooperation?
2. Why do you think God wants us to learn to cooperate? Why is it important that we learn to live in harmony?

Prayer-Morning: O God, we thank you for the daily challenges you provide us. We pray for your blessing and inspiration in finding peaceful and cooperative solutions to them. AMEN.

Prayer-Evening: Dear Lord, we thank you for this day and for our many blessing. We pray your spirit to attend us through the night and bless us tomorrow with unity, harmony, and peace in our efforts. AMEN

Saturday: Friendship References

"Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labor. For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he fall; for he hath not another to help him up."

–Judaism and Christianity. Ecclesiastes (sound familiar ... the buddy system!)

""A faithful friend is a sturdy shelter; he who finds one finds a treasure."

- Christianity. Sirach 6:14

"A mirror reflects a man's face, but what he is really like is shown by the kind of friends he chooses." –Judaism and Christianity. Proverbs 27:19

There are three sorts of friend that are of value [...] Friendship with the upright, with the true-to-death, and those who have heard much. -Confucianism. Analects 16.4

The friend who is a helper all the time,
The friend happiness and sorrow both,
The friend who gives advice that's always good,
The friend who has full sympathy with you,
These four the wise see as good-hearted friends
And with devotion cherish such as these
As does a mother cherish her own child.

-Buddhism. Digha Nikaya iii.187, Sigalovada Sutra

Those that are good, seek for friends; that will help you to practice virtue with body and soul. -Taoism. Tract of the Quiet Way

Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

–Christianity. John 15.13

Saturday: Friendship Reflection

Thought for the Day: He who brings you closer to God is your friend. One of the great blessings of friendship is the sharing of meaningful and enjoyable discussion time together and fellowship. Each of us needs and tells our hopes and dreams, and in whom we can find safe, peaceful comfort. Here, among your many friends in Scouting and in this historic countryside, you can find and build friendships that will last a lifetime.

Remember that to have a friend, you need to be a friend. Reach out to someone, share something, reveal something of your own personality and qualities to him, and look for his best qualities and characteristics.

Whenever God desires to bless us, it is usually through the hands of someone else on earth. More often than not, it is friends that provide some of God's greatest blessing. We bless others when we serve them; we are blessed when we allow others to serve us. Incorporate the values of Scouting and your natural inclination to do a Good Turn daily to find, build, and maintain friendships in all that you do here.

May God bless you to desire the friendship and fellowship that is available to us here at Kamp KNOTS this weekend.

Questions for Discussion:

1. What can we do today to be a friend to someone else?
2. When you are among your closest friends, do you notice a feeling of spiritual growth and development that may not be present when you are around certain others? What do you think accounts for this difference?

Prayer-Morning: Dear God, we thank you for the opportunity to love and serve our friends, and pray for your divine guidance in leading us to those who will become our true friends. AMEN.

Prayer-Evening: Dear God, as we close the day, we offer our gratitude for all that we have and are. We thank you for our friends and for the blessings that come through them to us. AMEN.

Sunday: Future References

Be still and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth. –Judaism and Christianity. Psalm 46:10

If God is for us, who can be against us? –Christianity. Romans 8.31

United with me, you shall overcome all difficulties by my grace.
–Hinduism. Bhagavad Gita 18.58

Men of little ability, too,
By depending upon the great, may prosper;
A drop of water is a little thing,
But when will it dry away if united to a lake?
-Buddhism. Elegant Sayings 173

Youths may faint and be weary,
And young men may fall, exhausted;
But they who hope in the Lord shall renew their strength.
They shall mount up with wings like eagles,
They shall run and not be weary,
They shall walk and not grow faint.
-Judaism and Christianity. Isaiah 40.30-31

Whosoever keeps his duty to God, God will appoint a way out for him, and will provide for him a way that he cannot foresee. And whosoever puts his trust in God, He will suffice him. Lo! God brings His command to pass. God has set a measure for all things.
-Islam. Koran 65.2-3

Sunday: Future Reflection

Remember how the Lord your God led you all the way. –Christianity. Psalm 46:10

Thought of the Day: We hope you think back on your experience at Kamp KNOTS fondly. Perhaps you will remember it for a lifetime, as many of the leaders do from our time at camp as a youth (and even now). It is now time for you to leave this special place after having spent the weekend here. You may have mixed emotions - On the one hand, you are probably eager to see your family and friends. On the other hand, your mind may be flooded with wonderful memories that may make you want to remain just a little longer.

We hope your memory of Kamp KNOTS is one of fun, and people, and spiritual experiences and places, and fun and ... did we mention fun? As for our weekend vespers program we hope you felt God's love and presence even though you may be many miles from home. As the Scripture passage reminds us, God is always there leading and teaching us, in good times as well as those that are not so good.

What about you? As you soon depart Kamp KNOTS site, do good memories go with you? Will you think of times when you felt closer to God, in prayer, in personal moments of reflection, in shared meditation experiences with others, and in the awesome recognition of God's creative power? Will you be able to testify that God is willing to lead you wherever you go? After all, you have already stepped into the future by learning to live in God's country and in nature at Kamp KNOTS.

Questions for Discussion:

1. What memories of God's love and care will you be taking with you as you leave Kamp KNOTS? Was there a time when you felt close to God during the weekend (e.g. a sunrise, sunset, campfire, a friend's smile)?
2. Who are some people who have made special contributions to you during your stay here at Kamp KNOTS? Why?

Prayer: Thank you, God, for leading us each day wherever we may go in this world. We love you. AMEN.

Breakfast prayer: As we begin a new day, we give thanks, O Lord, for the many great memories of this camp, for our food, and for your many blessings. AMEN.

Departure prayer: Lead us O Lord, as we prepare to leave Kamp KNOTS. We are grateful for our many Scouting experiences in the land we will long remember. Protect us in travel and preserve our memories of this adventure. We ask this in your name. AMEN.

Worship Service Outline

This is just a simple outline for a “scouts’ own” worship service. It is good to know if your group is all one faith or mixed-faiths (Christian, Jewish, Islamic, Hindu, Buddhist, other). If one faith, then the service can be directed specifically to that faith. If mixed-faith, please keep the service either very general or use elements from all religions represented. Below is a general outline for an inter-faith worship service.

Service:

Call to Worship – reading or announcement

Opening Prayer – vespers morning prayer or other

Song/Hymn #1 – find some they know

Song/Hymn #2 – (optional) if you have a good singing group, do more!

Readings – (optional) vespers scriptures, or others

Meditation – can use the Sunday vespers meditation; reflection on the scout oath or law or outdoor code; meditation on lessons of the weekend; a round of thankfulness (where each scout, in turn, says what they are thankful for about the weekend); or many other ideas.

Song/Hymn #3 – (optional) if you have a good singing group, do more!

Closing Prayer – vespers evening prayer or other

Keys to an effective worship: Take it seriously, make sure it is planned (like a good campfire is planned), have the scouts lead (e.g., Chaplain’s Aid) even if the Chaplain (or adult) delivers the message (better yet, have a scout do that too)!

Keep it simple, short and meaningful! A 10 to 20 minute service is very appropriate for a campout!

If you don’t have resources for this service, make sure you have them for the next. We recommend MacScouter’s Big Book of Worship or other guides available on the internet (one good place to start looking is USScouts.org).

We encourage the Chaplain’s Aide (or equivalent) to take a strong leadership role in planning and providing campout worship services.

GODSPEED – have a safe journey home, thanks for visiting Kamp KNOTS!