

**AKELA'S SCOUTS OWN BIBLE**

*Written/collated by Lisa Nicholls  
CSL 1st Quakers Hill/Doonside Cub Pack*

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<b>Page</b>
<b>1 <u>What is a Scouts Own?</u></b>	<b>5</b>
When can I run a Scouts Own?	7
What's in a Scouts Own?	7
Hints on running a Scouts Own	9
How to Involve the Cubs in a Scout Own	13
<b>2 <u>Songs</u></b>	<b>16</b>
All Things Bright and Beautiful	19
He's Got the Whole World	20
The Scout Hymn	21
Day By Day	22
Morning Has Broken	23
What a Wonderful World	24
You've Got a Friend In Me	25
It's a Small World	26
Together	27
You've got a Friend	28
Kumbaya (Come by Here)	30

### **3 Activities** **31**

God Answers our Prayers	32
The Alphabet	32
Friendship	33
Circle or Web of Thanks	34
CD Prayers	35

### **4 Prayers** **36**

Thank you, sorry, please - teaspoon prayers	38
Three envelopes	38
Hand prayers	39
Wash away wrongs	41
In the bin	42
Bubble Prayers	43
Thank You, God	43
Good Night, God	44
Hold My Hand	44
God Hear My Prayer	45
The Scout Hymn	45
Beaver Prayer – Thank You	46
Thanks Be to God	46
Beaver Prayer	47
Please God	48
Silent Prayer for Our Brothers	48

We Thank Thee	50
<b>5 <u>Yarns/Readings</u></b>	<b>50</b>
A Bundle of Sticks	51
The Mirror	52
Working Together	54
The Three Wishes	55
Chief's Last Message to Boy Scouts	57
Are You Blessed?	59
God Forgive Me When I Whine	60
Teamwork- When Geese Fly	63
The Jar	64
Colours	66
The Cord	69
Why?	72
<b>6 <u>Quotes/Sayings</u></b>	<b>74</b>

# WHAT IS A SCOUTS OWN?



A Scouts Own is a gathering of Scouts which helps develop a Scouts spirituality. It is a time for reflection to pray and give thanks to your God in a nondenominational service.

- A time of thanks
- A time of sorrow
- A time of happiness
- A Time of reflection

It can also be a time of learning, particularly for the Cubs, who remember are only now just beginning their spiritual journey. It is part of our responsibilities as Leaders to help the Cubs develop their spiritual side and help them understand how to live by their beliefs. Remember a Scouts Own is a non denominational service

## When Can I Run a Scouts Own?

Basically any time! Most packs run them on the Sunday morning of a weekend away, such as a Pack Holiday. Why not be different and do it at some other times such as;

- The end of a weekly meeting perhaps after a night on Law & Promise.
- During a Hike or outing.
- Around a Campfire just before going to bed whilst having hot Chocolate. But be careful not to make it as part of a Campfire program.
- In times of sorrow such as saying goodbye to someone or in extreme cases the death of someone.

## What's in a Scouts Own?

- **Yarns** – Be careful not to make them too long
- **Songs** – Make sure they are easy or are known to the Cubs. Appropriate action songs are good too
- **Prayers**
- **Games** – Not loud and boisterous ones, but quite ones with meaning.

- **Silence** – A time for personal reflection
- **Readings/Quotes**

A Scouts own can involve all these elements or just one or two! Every service is different. As long as you keep to the theme you will be fine.

## **Hints on running a Scouts Own**

Perhaps Baden Powell's thoughts on a Scouts Own will enlighten you a bit more;

For an open Troop, or for Troops in camp, I think the Scouts' Own should be open to all denominations, and carried on in such a manner as to offend none. There should not be any special form, but it should abound in the right spirit, and should be conducted not from any Ecclesiastical point of view, but from that of the boy. Everything likely to make an artificial atmosphere should be avoided. We do not want a kind of imposed Church parade, but a voluntary uplifting of their hearts by the boys in thanksgiving for the joys of life, and a desire on their part to seek inspiration and strength for greater love and service for others.

A Scouts' Own should have as big an effect on the boys as any service in church, if in conducting the Scouts' Own we remember that boys are not grown men, and if we go by the pace of the youngest and most uneducated of those present. Boredom is not reverence, nor will it breed religion.

To interest the boys, the Scout's Own must be a cheery and varied function. Short hymns (three verses are as a

rule quite enough-never four); understandable prayers; a good address from a man who really understands boys (a homily "talk" rather than an address), which grips the boys, and in which they may laugh or applaud as the spirit moves them, so that they take a real interest in what is said. If a man cannot make his point to keen boys in ten minutes he ought to be shot! If he has not got them keen, it would be better not to hold a Scouts' Own at all.

Written by Baden Powell

B.-P.'S OUTLOOK

November 1928

What B.P. Wrote all those years ago is still good advice for today's Scouts Own, of course now directing at both Boys and Girls. So as B.P Said, A Scouts Own should;

- **Have a theme**
- **Be nondenominational** so everyone can take part.
- **Have a purpose** and as B.P. said "an effect" on the participants
- Like any other program, **a Scouts own must be planned** ahead. "Be Prepared"
- **Kept simple**
- **Be run from Cubs point of view**, not an adult. "Go by the pace of the Youngest". Carefully select all your contents to ensure it is understandable for 8-11 year olds in their language and level of spiritual understanding.
- **Be simple**: Young children are not abstract thinkers so be literal and concrete. Use real examples where possible (eg. God made this flower). Use simple vocabulary that they can understand. Avoid jargon
- **Have as many Cubs involved in the service as possible** rather than preaching to them. The best

Scouts Owns are those where all the pack including leaders take part.

- **Be conducted away from your normal activity area.**
- **Be visual:** Young children learn through their eyes as well as their ears. Use pictures, visual aids, picture books, action songs etc.

## How to Involve the Cubs in a Scout Own

Easy! As with any activity or program in Cubs, as long as you plan ahead, you should be fine.

A good place to start is to look at section 7 in each of the Boomerang badges.

**Bronze** – *Write a prayer and read it to your pack.* Once you have worked out the theme of your Scouts Own, ask one or two Cubs to write a short prayer on that theme. Make sure you see it before the service and help the Cubs make any necessary changes.

**Silver** – A bit harder here, but there is no reason why they can't write a prayer either. Another option is to run a Scouts Own on the Law and Promise to prepare them for when they discuss it later with Akela when finishing their badge.

**Gold** – *Help plan and participate in a Scouts Own.*

Well in advance, sit down with your Cubs (perhaps during a sixers council, or as a challenge during camp) and discuss a suitable theme.

Then with your guidance, have the Cubs choose the contents. Remember to keep to the theme and keep it short (10 min max). The Cubs can either use the content of this booklet, make up their own content or produce other content that they have from some other source.

Some helpful hints;

- **Don't bombard them with information.** If they are to choose a song for example, maybe give them an option of three songs, but no more.
- If you have a lot of Cubs doing their Gold Boomerang, **break them into groups.** One group for a song, another for a prayer, another for a game or another for a yarn or reading of quotes.
- On the other hand, if you only have one or two Cubs on Gold, **plan the Scouts Own with them,** but get them to choose one area to do.

Once the Cubs have all the contents of the Scouts Own together, get them to go through it a couple of times before the actual service to ensure they are comfortable with delivering the service.



# SONG'S



My advice with songs is to preferably use ones that the Cubs know. A Scouts Own is not the place to teach new skills and songs. Again, it all comes down to planning. If you know you are going to have a Scouts Own in the near future and you know what songs you would like, start teaching them to the Cubs. A great place to do this is around the campfire or at the end of a weekly meeting.

If you are unsure of any song, and the Cubs don't know any that are suitable to your theme, you are probably best to leave the songs out of that Scouts Own and then learn some for the next one.

Having said that, you could incorporate the below songs into your program and get the older Cubs to make up simple hand actions for their chosen song. But remember to keep it simple, 4 -5 hand actions would be plenty for them to remember.

Some of the songs already have hand actions of which I'm sure with a little bit of searching you will be able to

find. Don't feel that you have to use all the verses either, as some of the Songs are quite long. Just choose those that suit your theme.

Or you could be even more adventurous and give the Cubs a tune (such as Kum By Ya), and a theme and have them write the lyrics. Just remember to have a look over them before the scouts Own.

## All Things Bright and Beautiful

Refrain:

All things bright and beautiful,  
All creatures great and small,  
All things wise and wonderful:  
The Lord God made them all.

Each little flower that opens,  
Each little bird that sings,  
He made their glowing colours,  
He made their tiny wings.

The purple-headed mountains,  
The river running by,  
The sunset and the morning  
That brightens up the sky.

The cold wind in the winter,  
The pleasant summer sun,  
The ripe fruits in the garden,  
He made them every one.

The tall trees in the greenwood,  
The meadows where we play,  
The rushes by the water,  
To gather every day.

He gave us eyes to see them,  
And lips that we might tell  
How great is God Almighty,  
Who has made all things well.

## **He's Got the Whole World**

He's Got the Whole World in His Hands

He's got the whole world --- in His hands,  
He's got the whole wide world --- in His hands,  
He's got the whole world --- in His hands,  
He's got the whole world in His hands.

He's got the wind and the rain --- in His hands,  
He's got the wind and the rain --- in His hands,  
He's got the wind and the rain --- in His hands,  
He's got the whole world in His hands.

He's got you and me, brother --- in His hands,  
He's got you and me, sister --- in His hands,  
He's got our whole Pack --- in His hands,  
He's got the whole world in His hands

## The Scout Hymn

*Ralph Reader CBE*

*If you know someone from Gang Show, they would know the tune.*

Now as I start upon my chosen way  
In all I do; my thoughts, my work, my play  
Grant as I promise courage new for me  
To be the best, the best that I can be  
Help me to keep my honour shining bright  
May I be loyal in the hardest fight  
Let me be able for my task and then  
To earn a place among my fellow men

Open my eyes to see things as I should  
That I may do my daily turn of good  
Let me be ready, waiting for each need  
To keep me clean in thought and word and deed.

So as I journey on my chosen way  
In all I do; my thoughts, my work, my play  
Grant as I promise courage new for me  
To be the best, the best that I can be

## **Day By Day**

Day by day

Day by day

Oh Dear God

Three things I pray

To see thee more clearly

Love thee more dearly

Follow thee more nearly

Day by day

*lyrics by Sammy Cahn*

## **Morning Has Broken**

Morning has broken, like the first morning  
Blackbird has spoken, like the first bird  
Praise for the singing, praise for the morning  
Praise for the springing fresh from the world

Sweet the rain's new fall, sunlit from heaven  
Like the first dewfall, on the first grass  
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden  
Sprung in completeness where his feet pass

Mine is the sunlight, mine is the morning  
Born of the one light, eden saw play  
Praise with elation, praise every morning  
God's recreation of the new day

Morning has broken, like the first morning  
Blackbird has spoken, like the first bird  
Praise for the singing, praise for the morning  
Praise for the springing fresh from the world

## What a Wonderful World

I see trees of green..... red roses too  
I see em bloom..... for me and for you  
And I think to myself.... what a wonderful world.

I see skies of blue..... Clouds of white  
Bright blessed days....dark sacred nights  
and I think to myself.....What a wonderful world.

The colours of a rainbow.....so pretty..in the sky  
Are also on the faces.....of people ..Going by  
I see friends shaking hands.....saying.. How do you do  
they're really sayin.....I love you.  
I hear babies cry..... I watch them grow  
They'll learn much more.....than I'll never know  
And I think to myself .....What a wonderful world

The colours of a rainbow.....so pretty..in the sky  
Are there on the faces.....of people ..Going by  
I see friends shaking hands.....sayin.. how do you do  
They're really sayin... \*spoken\*(I ....love....you).

I hear babies cry..... I watch them grow  
\*spoken\*(you know their gonna learn  
A whole lot more than I'll never know)  
And I think to myself .....What a wonderful world  
Yes I think to myself .....what a wonderful world.

*Bob Thiele and George David Weiss.*

## You've Got a Friend in Me

You've got a friend in me  
You've got a friend in me  
When the road looks rough ahead  
And you're miles and miles  
From your nice warm bed  
You just remember what your old pal said  
Boy, you've got a friend in me  
Yeah, you've got a friend in me

You've got a friend in me  
You've got a friend in me  
If you've got troubles, I've got 'em too  
There isn't anything I wouldn't do for you  
We stick together and can see it through  
Cause you've got a friend in me  
You've got a friend in me

Some other folks might be  
A little bit smarter than I am  
Bigger and stronger too  
Maybe  
But none of them will ever love you  
The way I do, it's me and you

Boy, and as the years go by  
Our friendship will never die  
You're gonna see it's our destiny  
You've got a friend in me  
You've got a friend in me  
You've got a friend in me

by Randy Newman

## It's a Small World

It's a world of laughter  
A world of tears  
It's a world of hopes  
And a world of fears  
There's so much that we share  
That it's time we're aware  
It's a small world after all  
Everybody now

It's a small world after all  
It's a small world after all  
Everybody now  
It's a small world after all  
It's a small, small, small, small world

There is just one moon  
And one golden sun  
And a smile means  
Friendship to every one  
Though the mountains divide  
And the oceans are wide  
It's a small world after all  
Come on, come on, everybody now

It's a small world after all  
It's a small world after all  
Everybody now  
It's a small world after all  
It's a small, small world

It's a small world after all  
No matter if you're big or small  
Come on, everybody let's funk with it  
Expect to love with a little twist

## Together

*Another Gang Show song. Either teach it to the Cubs, or have them cross their arms across their stomachs, hold the next Cubs hands, & start a gentle sway whilst one or two people sing it.*

Together, when we're all together

We Know how lucky we are

The world around us is everything

The sound of music

The songs we sing

And even in the coldest winter

The warmest summer arrives

We'll share together

When we're together

The BEST years of our lives

*Words and music by Ralph Reader*

*Written for the London Gang Shows during the 1930's*

## **You've got a Friend**

When you're down and troubled  
And you need a helping hand  
And nothing, oh, nothing is going right,  
Just close your eyes and think of me  
And soon I will be there  
To brighten even your darkest night

You just call out my name  
And, you know, wherever I am  
I'll come running  
To see you again  
Winter, spring, summer or fall  
All you've got to do is call  
And I'll be there, yeah yes I'll be there  
You've got a friend

If the sky high above you  
Should grow dark and full of clouds  
And that old cold north wind should begin to blow  
Just keep your poor head together now  
And call my name out loud  
Pretty Soon I'll be knocking on your door

You just call out my name  
And, you know, wherever I am  
I'll come running  
To see you again

Winter, spring, summer or fall  
All you've got to do is call on me now  
And I'll be there, yeah yes I'll be there

Well, ain't it good to know that you've got a friend  
When people can be so cold  
They hurt you yes and desert ya,  
Well, they take your soul if you let them,  
Yeah, but don't you let them

You just call out my name  
And, you know, wherever I am  
I'll come running as fast as I can  
To see you again  
(Oh Yes don't you know 'bout)  
Winter, spring, summer or fall  
(Baby) All you've got to do is call on me now  
I'll be there, yeah yes I'll be there

You've got a friend  
*Carol King*

## **Kumbaya (Come By Here)**

Kumbaya, my Lord, kumbaya;

Kumbaya, my Lord, kumbaya;

Kumbaya, my Lord, kumbaya;

Oh, Lord, kumbaya.

Someone's cryin', Lord, kumbaya;

Someone's cryin', Lord, kumbaya;

Someone's cryin', Lord, kumbaya;

Oh, Lord, kumbaya.

Someone's singin', Lord, kumbaya;

Someone's singin', Lord, kumbaya;

Someone's singin', Lord, kumbaya;

Oh, Lord, kumbaya.

Kumbaya, my Lord, kumbaya;

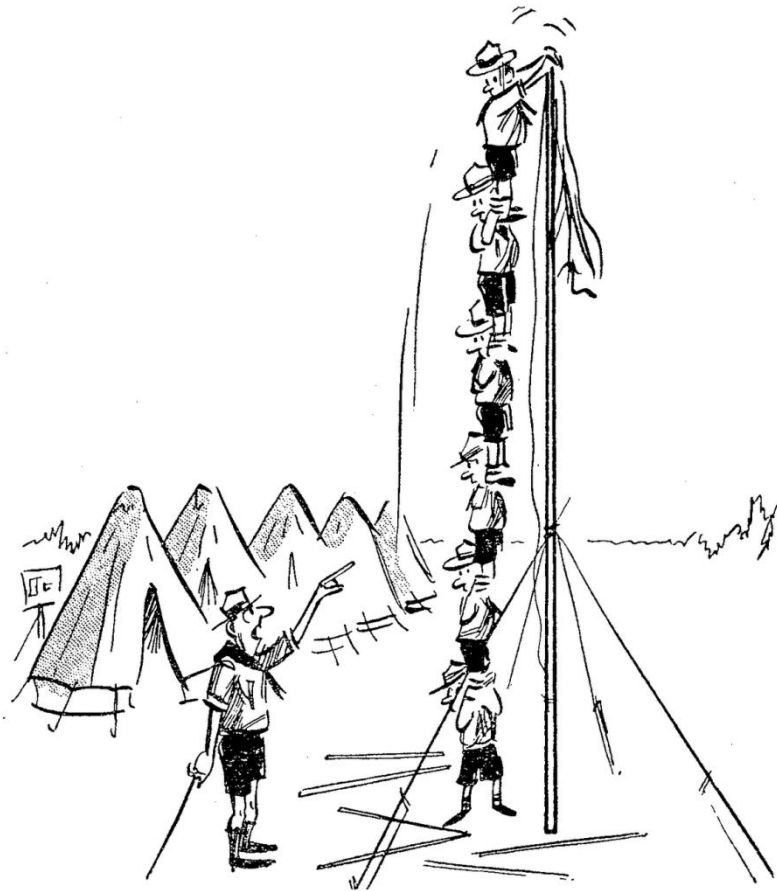
Kumbaya, my Lord, kumbaya;

Kumbaya, my Lord, kumbaya;

Oh, Lord, kumbaya.

Kumbaya.

# ACTIVITIES



*'Didn't I show you boys an easier way of doing this?'*

*by GRAHAM*

by 'Graham', from page 107 of Scout Smiles, edited by EGW Wood, published in 1950 and long out of print

## **Scouts Own Activities**

Again, keep these quick, simple and quite. Any long activities can take away from the mood of the service.

### **God Answers our Prayers**

*God answers our prayers without speaking. Can we communicate with each other without speaking?*

Perhaps start of the service instructing the Cubs to sit according to age, youngest to oldest without speaking. When all seated, you could start the Scouts Own with the above statement and expand on it if you like.

### **The Alphabet**

Go through the alphabet (A-Z) one cub at a time to say something in line with your theme. Some letters however may need the help of a Leader

## Friendship

Give each Cub a large letter written on cardboard or paper. On the other side of the paper is the line corresponding with their letter. Starting with F and in order of spelling the word, get each Cub in the circle to hold up their letter and say their line; You could also do this with another word/Theme.

**F** is for friends that you can trust

**R** is relying on those being trusted

**I** is for including, and not excluding

**E** is for everyone you must include

**N** is for nice, so don't be nasty

**D** is for dear friends you must be

**S** is for saying what you like, and not what you hate

**H** is for helping those in need

**I** is for importance for everyone

**P** is for peace, and not for war

What does it spell?

Written by "Zoe, Heather, Amy, & Danielle", as part of one patrol's contribution to a Guides Own service, held in Gloucestershire by Guide units of Malmesbury Division, Maghull, Liverpool, England

## **Circle or Web of Thanks**

Stand in a circle and get the cubs to throw a ball. When someone catches that ball, they have to say something in relation to that theme. Eg a Theme of “thanks”, Cub catches the ball and says “Thank you for our sunny day”. Or for “our great Leaders”.

### **OR**

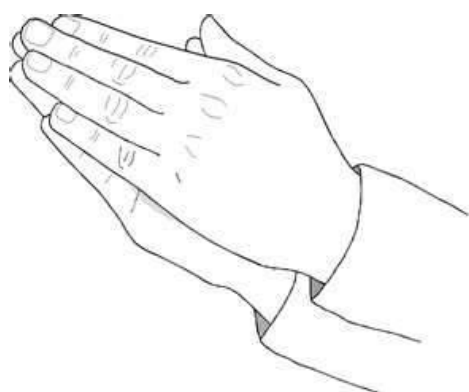
Take a ball of yarn, the first person says something they were thankful for during the weekend. They hold the end and throw the ball of yarn to another person across the way (everyone is in a large circle) and that person says what they are thankful for, holds their end and throws to another person and so on, until everyone has had a turn. When you are finished, everyone lays their yarn down on the ground and it looks like a big spider web. Then when everyone is gone a leader can roll up the yarn easily and use it again next time.

## **CD Prayers**

Give the Cubs a theme eg, Friendship, thanks, respect, honesty. Then before the Scouts Own give them each a blank CD and a permanent marker. Get each Cub to write a prayer on the CD in relation to the theme.

Then collect the CD's and hang them on the surrounding trees around the Scouts Own area before the ceremony. Cubs can then have a quite time of reflection & walk around reading the prayers that everyone else wrote during the service.

# PRAYERS



## Prayers

I have listed some useful prayers below. Or you can have the Cubs write a prayer for the service. Just give them a bit of guidance such as a theme and only ask for 2 or 3 lines. This would be perfect for a Cub doing their Bronze Boomerang as it is a part of the Promise & Law section. Make sure you have a look at it before the ceremony begins to make sure it is appropriate & suitable and help the Cub make any necessary adjustments.

The prayers can be said by only one Cub, or even one Cub for each line. Just make sure they are comfortable with the reading side and of course have a practice before the service.

## **Thank you, Sorry, Please - Teaspoon Prayers**

Thank You, Sorry, Please or TSP the abbreviation for teaspoon when cooking. To help a Cub learn how to write a prayer, give them a teaspoon before the Scouts Own, and give them the above explanation. Then have them write a prayer that includes the Teaspoon abbreviation – Thank You, Sorry, Please (Tsp).

## **Three envelopes**

You may find that some Cubs maybe a bit shy about writing prayers and reading them out loud. In this situation, prepare three envelopes each with a different label – Thank You, Sorry, Please - Then have each Cub write either a prayer or line for a prayer and then put it into the appropriate envelope. The Leaders and Cubs then can read out the anonymous prayers during the Scouts Own.

## **Hand prayers**

Before heading into the Scouts Own, give each Cub a paper cut-out of a hand. The Leaders can either have this ready for the Cubs or they can trace around their own hands and cut them out.

On the four fingers they should write;

Something to Thank God for

Something to say Sorry to God

Something to praise God with

Something they would like to ask for God's help with.

All the Cubs then take the hand to the Scouts Own. The Leader leads the prayer (on the next page), by reading a line and then having a moments silence in-between each line for the Cubs to read to themselves.

## Hand Prayer

Dear God,

**We thank you for** ..... Cubs read to themselves their first finger and then folds the finger down to the palm.

**We are sorry for** ..... Cubs read to themselves their second finger and then folds the finger down to the palm.

**We praise God for** ..... Cubs read to themselves their third finger and then folds the finger down to the palm.

**Please help me with** ..... Cubs read to themselves their fourth finger and then folds the finger down to the palm.

The hand should now have the thumbs up shape, a reminder that God has heard our prayers.

## **Wash away wrongs**

Ask the Cubs what they think would make God sad.

Write all their suggestions on something that you can erase the words (computer, whiteboard, lead pencil on paper). Then make it into a prayer like the one below;

**For all the times we make you feel sad....** We want to say...  
sorry

**For the times when we lie and cheat....** We want to say...  
sorry

**For the times when we are angry and grumpy....** We want to  
say... sorry

**For the times when we are rude or naughty....** We want to  
say... sorry

**For the times when we deliberately disobey....** We want to  
say... sorry

**For the times when we are selfish or unkind....** We want to  
say... sorry

**For all the wrong things we do....** We want to say... sorry  
Amen.

Once you have said the prayer, rub it out. Explain that once we say sorry to God that he forgives us and wipes away anything we have done wrong and gives us a clean start.

## **In the bin**

Give each Cub a small piece of paper and have them write a short prayer saying sorry to God for anything which is on their mind.

Have a few moments of silence in which the Cubs can quietly say their own Prayers to God. Then, pass round a bin and ask everyone to tear up their Prayer and put the pieces in the bin. Explain that when we say sorry to God, he takes away the things we have done wrong and gives us the chance to make a fresh start. If you are around the campfire, you could have the Cubs throw them into the fire instead.

## **Bubble Prayers**

At the end of a prayer, or each line of a prayer, have the Cubs blow a bubble.

Then, watch the bubble send the prayer to God. Just like our prayers, it rises and vanishes

## **Thank You, God**

The sun so bright up in the sky,  
The moon I see way, way up high!  
The soft green grass, the plants, the trees  
are special gifts  
God made for me.

All the people that I love  
are blessed by God up above.  
My neighbours, friends and family  
are special gifts God gave to me.

What gift can I give you my God  
in heaven up above?  
The thing you want the most from me  
is pure and simple...  
Love!

--Margaret Kennedy

## **Good Night, God**

I love you, God,  
with all my might.  
Keep me safe  
all through the night.

--Margaret Kennedy

## **Hold My Hand**

“Hold my hand, God, show me the way. Help me be grateful for every day. Show me the difference between right and wrong. Keep me safe, God, all night long. Give me direction on what to do, lead the way, God, I trust in you.”

## **God Hear My Prayer**

God in heaven hear my prayer,  
keep me in thy loving care.  
Be my guide in all I do,  
Bless all those who love me too.  
Amen.

## **The Scout Hymn – *Can be said as a prayer***

Now as I Start Upon My Chosen Way  
In all I do, my thoughts, my work, my play,  
Grant as I promise, Courage new for me,  
To be the best, the best that I can be

Open mine eyes to see things as I should,  
That I may do my daily turn of good,  
Let me be ready, waiting for each need  
To keep me clean in thought and word and deed.

So as I journey on my chosen way,  
In all I do, my thoughts, my work, my play,  
Grant as I promise, courage new for me,  
To be the best, the best that I can be.

## **Beaver Prayer – Thank You**

The air we breathe, the friends we meet,  
The walk to use our eyes and feet,  
The things around us make us say,  
Thank you, God, for each new day!

-from Scouting (U.K.) magazine

## **Thanks Be to God**

Thanks to God for things we see,  
The growing flower, the waving tree,  
Our mother's face, the bright blue sky  
Where birds and clouds go floating by;  
Thanks be to God for seeing.

Thanks to God for things we hear,  
For sounds of friends who laugh and cheer,  
The merry bells, the songs of birds,  
For stories, tunes, and kindly words;  
Thanks be to God for hearing.

-from Hazel Tagg

## **Beaver Prayer**

Now, before I run to play,  
Don't let me forget to pray  
To God who keeps me through the night  
And wakes me up with morning light;  
Help me, Lord, to love you more  
Than I have ever loved before,  
In my work and in my play;  
Thank you, God, for another day.

Amen

- 8th Belleville Beavers

## **Please God**

Please God, help my eyes to see  
All the good you have sent to me.  
Please God, help my ears to hear  
Calls for help from far and near.  
Please God, help my feet to go  
In the way that you will show.  
Please God, help my hands to do  
All things loving, kind, and true.  
Please God, may I helpful be,  
Growing every day like Thee.  
Amen.

## **Silent Prayer for Our Brothers**

B.P wrote:

First love and serve God.

Second love and serve your neighbour.

In doing you duty to God always be grateful to him.

Whenever you enjoy a pleasure or a good game, or succeed in doing a good thing,

thank Him for it, if only with a word or two.

Let us each now say a silent prayer for our brother or sister on our right.... For our brother or Sister on

our left...

And now for our brother scouts around the world.

## **We Thank Thee**

We thank Thee

For flowers that bloom about our feet;

For tender grass so fresh and sweet;

For song of bird and hum of bee;

For all things fair we hear and see,

God in heaven, we thank Thee!

*-Ralph Waldo Emerson*

# YARNS/READINGS



## **A Bundle of Sticks**

If I were to take a long straight stick and put it over my knee, I could break it quite easily. If I took two, or maybe three, I would still be able to break them. If I took four or five, I would have to apply much more pressure, and try a whole lot harder to break them.

Now, imagine if I had a large bundle of sticks and tied them with a strong rope either end. No matter how hard I tried or how much pressure I put on them they would not break.

If you stop and think, a Cub Scout Pack can be just like these sticks. Think of the Pack as a bundle of sticks that are tied together, only instead of rope we have our Law and Promise. It gives us the strength that binds us together.

One or two Cub Scouts on their own can easily forget to be loyal to their Pack. When ragged by other boys or girls, it's easy to be self-conscious, or even ashamed to be seen running round in strange cloths.

But, if they remember they are members of a whole Pack with the support of their Leaders, they will be like the bundle of sticks having the strength to stand up for what they believe in.

(Yarns for Cubs, June 1981)

## **The Mirror**

A long time ago in a remote village in China, there lived a merchant. It was his custom to go to the far off city once a year, and purchase the goods to bring back to sell to the people of the village and surrounding valley. The merchant had a son whom he trained to look after his business while he went on these long trips. For many years this was a very happy arrangement-the father went off to buy the goods, the son stayed home and sold them, and the people bought the things they needed.

The son married a beautiful young lady, and they were very happy. The merchant grew very old, and one day became extremely ill and died. So now the son had to go to the far off city to buy the goods. He started off and after some time he arrived at the city. He soon found the market-place and set about purchasing the goods he needed to take back with him.

As he walked from stall to stall something caught his eye. He picked it up. He was astounded; here in the middle of this distant city was a portrait of his father as a young man. What the son did not know was that he was looking into a mirror and the portrait he saw was

actually his own reflection. So he bought the mirror and took it home for himself.

On arriving home he showed the mirror to his wife and when she looked into it she saw a lovely young woman. Immediately she was very sad. Why would her husband bring home a portrait of another young woman and why was he so excited about it? Surely the woman must mean a lot to him. So the next day she took the mirror to the high priestess and told her story. The High Priestess, a very old lady had grown very old and wrinkled and was no longer nice to look upon. "I will put her away where she can do no harm." she said.

Like the reflection in the mirror, what do people see when they look at our faces. Is it a happy face, bad tempered, scowling or a nice pleasant face? People always look at another face to see what kind of person they are. If you wear a happy face, people around you will feel happier. If you smile at someone, they will properly smile back at you.

When asked what he meant by doing a good turn, Lord Baden-Powell said, "To give someone a smile is one of the best things you can do." To smile at someone really is a good turn you can do for them.

## **Working Together**

Note: You will require 24 matches and an elastic band.

"Cub Scouts, you'll notice that the matches in front of you stand easily when all bound together in the rubber band. But look at what happens when I try to stand them after removing the band." (Let them all fall)

"Our Cub Scout Pack is like this bunch of matches. As long as we can work together as a team, bound together by the ties of Cubing, we will stand as a strong Pack."

"But, if we remove those ideals of Cubing and each Cub Scout thinks only of him or herself, we'll be like that bunch of matches when the rubber band was taken off."

"As we all live up to the ideals of the Cub Scout Law and Promise, we will wrap ourselves in a band that will strengthen our Pack and make sure that it stands for the things that make Cubing great."

## **The Three Wishes**

Once upon a time, there lived a woodman and his wife. They were very poor. Every day, the woodman would set out early in the morning to chop down trees in the forest in which they lived.

As the woodman was travelling through the forest one day, he saw a fine old oak tree. "That will make plenty of planks," he thought, as he took his axe. But he had not given the tree one blow, when he heard someone crying out: "Please don't hurt this tree."

The woodman looked around him and saw a tiny fairy. "If you do not hurt this tree," she said, "I will grant you and your wife three wishes."

"I won't hurt this tree," said the woodman kindly. Then the fairy vanished! That evening, the woodman walked slowly home. He was feeling very hungry and could not wait for his supper.

How will the woodman use his wishes? Find out tomorrow.

"Is my supper ready?" the woodman asked his wife, when he arrived home.

"Not for at least two hours," replied his wife.

"I wish I had a big black sausage to eat right now," he said out loud. And suddenly, a delicious sausage appeared on the table before him.

"Where has that black sausage come from?" the woodman's wife asked.

So the woodman told his wife the story about the fairy. But his wife was very angry. "You have wasted the first of our wishes," she said crossly. "I wish that sausage was on your nose."

And with that, the sausage jumped up and was stuck fast on the woodman's nose! His wife could not pull it off and nor could he, so the only thing to do was to wish it on to the table again, which the woodman did.

What a waste of three wishes! The only thing the woodman and his wife had was a very good supper of black sausage.

(The moral of this story is, be careful of what you say and think before you speak).

## **Chief's Last Message to Boy Scouts**

Dear Scouts,

If you have ever seen the play "Peter Pan" you will remember how the pirate chief was always making his dying speech because he was afraid that possibly when the time came for him to die he might not have the time to get it off his chest. It is much the same with me, and so, although I am not at this moment dying, I shall be doing so one of these days and I want to send you a parting word of goodbye. Remember, it is the last you will ever hear from me, so think it over.

I have had a most happy life and I want each and every one of you to have a happy life too. I believe that God put us in this jolly world to be happy and enjoy life. Happiness doesn't come from being rich, nor merely from being successful in your career, nor by self-indulgence. One step towards happiness is to make yourself healthy and strong while you are a boy, so that you can be useful and so can enjoy life when you are a man.

Nature study will show you how full of beautiful and wonderful things God has made the world for you to enjoy. Be contented with what you have got and make

the best of it. Look on the bright side of things instead of the gloomy one.

But the real way to get happiness is by giving out happiness to other people, try and leave this world a little better than you found it and when your turn comes to die, you can die happy in feeling that at any rate you have not wasted your time but have done your best. "Be Prepared" in this way, to live happy and die happy - stick to your Scout Promise always - even after you have ceased to be a boy - and God help you do it.

Your friend,

B-P.

## Are You Blessed?

- If you own a Bible, Quran, Geeta, Avesta or any other holy scripture ... you are abundantly blessed since 1/3 of all the world doesn't have access to one and over two billion people in this world can't read.
- If you have never experienced the danger of battle, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture, or the pangs of starvation ... you are ahead of 500 million people in the world.
- If you can attend a church meeting without fear of harassment, arrest, torture, or death ... you are more blessed than three billion people in the world.
- If you have food in the refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof overhead and a place to sleep ... you are richer than 75% of this world.
- If you have money in the bank, in your wallet, and spare change in a dish someplace ... you are among the top 8% of the world's wealthy.
- If you hold up your head with a smile on your face and are truly thankful ... you are blessed because the majority can, BUT MOST DO NOT!
- If you can hold someone's hand, hug them or even touch them on the shoulder ... you are blessed because you can offer your support, AND EVERYONE NEEDS THE TOUCH OF A LOVED ONE, A FRIEND OR EVEN A STRANGER AT SOME TIME ... EVERY DAY!!!

## God Forgive Me When I Whine

Today, upon a bus,  
I saw a girl with golden hair,  
I envied her, she seemed so happy.  
When she rose to leave,  
I saw her hobble down the aisle.  
She had one leg, and used a crutch,  
But as she passed, she smiled.  
Oh God, forgive me when I whine,  
I have two legs, The world is mine.

I stopped to buy some candy,  
The lad who sold it had such charm,  
I talked with him, he seemed so glad,  
and as I left he said to me,  
"I thank you. You have been so kind,  
it's nice to talk to folks like you,  
you see," he said, "I'm blind."  
Oh God, forgive me when I whine,  
I have two eyes, the world is mine.

Later, when walking down the street,  
I saw a child with eyes of blue.  
He stood and watched the others play,  
I stopped a moment, then said,  
"Why don't you join the others dear?"  
He looked ahead without a word  
and then I knew he couldn't hear.  
Oh God, forgive me when I whine,  
I have two ears, the world is mine.

With feet to take me where I want to go,  
with eyes to see the sunset's glow,  
with ears to hear what I would know,  
Oh God, forgive me when I whine,

I'm blessed indeed.

The world is mine.

You gave me eyes to

You gave me eyes to see and I see,

but yet I see so little.

You gave me ears to hear,

and I listen not enough.

You gave me a mind to think

but so many times I don't.

You gave me hands to reach out to others,

but so many times I don't reach out far enough.

You gave me a heart to be filled with love,

but so many times it doesn't show.

Help me Lord to use to the fullest,

the things You have given me.

## **Teamwork - When Geese Fly**

When geese fly in formation, they travel about 70% faster than when they fly alone.

Geese share leadership. When the lead goose tires, he (or she) rotates back into the "V" and another flies forward to become the leader.

Geese keep company with the fallen. When a sick or weak goose drops out of the flight formation, at least one other goose joins to help and protect.

By being part of a team, we too can accomplish much more, much faster. Words of encouragement and support help inspire and energize those on the front lines, helping them to keep pace in spite of the day-to-day pressures and fatigue.

Finally, showing compassion and active caring for our fellow man — a member of the ultimate team: "MANKIND".

The next time you see a formation of geese, remember that it is a reward, a challenge, and a privilege to be a contributing member of a team.

## The Jar

*You will need; A jar, rocks that will fit into the jar, pebbles, sand, water.*

The Scout Leader stood in front of the Pack and had some items in front of him. He picked up a large empty glass jar and proceeded to fill it with rocks, about 2" in diameter. He then asked the Pack if the jar was full? They agreed that it was.

So the Leader then picked up a box of pebbles and poured them into the jar. He shook the jar lightly. The pebbles, of course, rolled into the open areas between the rocks. He then asked the Pack again if the jar was full. They agreed it was.

Then the Leader picked up a box of sand and poured it into the jar. Naturally the sand filled up everything else.

"Now," said the Leader, "I want you to recognize that this is your life. The rocks are the important things; your family, your grandparents, your friends and your health, your education - things that if everything else was lost and only they remained, your life would still be full. The pebbles are less important things, like your possessions, television, bicycle, and electronics. The sand is everything else - the small stuff. If you put the sand into the jar first, there is no room for all the pebbles or the rocks. The same goes for your life. If you spend all your time and energy on the small stuff,

you will never have room for the things that are important to you"

"Pay attention to the things that are critical to your happiness and well-being. Enjoy and enhance your friendships with your family and friends. Take on activities with others. There will always be time for less important things like watching TV or working around the house. Take care of the rocks first - the things that really matter. Set your priorities. The rest is just sand."

But then...

A young Scout stood up and asked the Pack if they were sure that the jar was truly full. All the Pack agreed that it was indeed full. When they had all agreed, the Scout reached into his backpack and pulled out a canteen of water.

He poured the contents into the already "full" jar. Of course the water filled the remaining spaces within the jar making the jar truly full.

Which proves that no matter how full your life is, there should always be room for the basic ingredients of life and nature.

## Colours

### *Based on a Native American Legend*

You can either read this as a story, maybe giving each Cub a colour and a section to read to read, or you could incorporate the below activity.

- Materials needed for each person involved with the ceremony:
- 1 Strip of leather about 7 inches long
- 1 pony bead of each colour: Red, Orange, Yellow, Green, Blue, Indigo, Violet
- Colour streamers can either be attached to walls or placed on the floor where the colours are to stand---for a nice touch.

Stand in a circle and were handed the thin strips of leather. As different people read the different colours, we were given the same colour pony bead and put it on our leather strip in order. When the last person was reading from 'And so the colours went on boasting ...' we took our finished strip and tied it around the wrist of the person to our right. The beads were put on in the same order as the colours of the rainbow: red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, violet. It was a very touching ceremony and I remember it to this day and keep my bracelet in my purse

### Narrative:

Once upon a time the colours of the world started a quarrel: all claimed that they were the best, the most important, the most useful, the favourite.

**RED shouted out:** "I am the ruler of all of you ---I am blood---life's blood! I am the colour of danger and of bravery. I am willing to fight for a cause. I bring fire into the blood. Without me, the earth would be as empty as the moon. I am the colour of passion and of love, the red rose, the poinsettia and the poppy."

**ORANGE started next to blow her trumpet:** "I am the colour of health and strength. I may be scarce, but I am precious for I serve the needs of human life. I carry the most important vitamins. Think of carrots, pumpkins, oranges, mangos, and papaws. I don't hang around all the time, but when I fill the sky at sunrise or sunset, my beauty is so striking that no one gives another thought to any of you."

**YELLOW chuckled:** "You are all so serious. I bring laughter, gaiety, and warmth into the world. The sun is yellow, the moon is yellow, the stars are yellow. Every time you look at a sunflower, the whole world starts to smile. Without me there would be no fun."

**GREEN said:** "Clearly, I am the most important. I am the sign of life and hope. I was chosen for grass, trees, leaves---without me, all animals would die. Look over the countryside and you will see that I am in the majority."

**BLUE interrupted:** "You only think about the earth, but consider the sky and the sea. It is the water that is the basis of life and drawn up by the clouds from the deep sea. The sky gives space and peace and serenity. Without my peace, all of you would be nothing."

**INDIGO spoke,** much more quietly than all the others, but with just as much determination: "Think of me. I am the colour of silence. You hardly notice me, but without me, all of you become superficial. I

represent thought and reflection, twilight and deep water. You need me for balance and contrast, for prayer and inner peace."

**VIOLET** rose to her full height. She was very tall and spoke with great pomp: "I am the colour of loyalty and power. Kings, chiefs, and bishops have always chosen me for I am the sign of authority and wisdom. People do not question me---they listen and obey."

And so the colours went on boasting, each convinced of his or her own superiority. Their quarrelling became louder and louder. Suddenly, there was a startling flash of bright lightning...thunder rolled and boomed. Rain started to pour down relentlessly. The colours crouched down in fear, drawing closer to one another for comfort.

In the midst of the clamour, rain began to speak: "You foolish colours, fighting amongst yourselves, each trying to dominate the rest. Don't you know that you were each made for a special purpose, unique and different? Join hands with one another and come to me."

Doing as they were told, the colours united and joined hands. The rain continued: "From now on, when it rains, each of you will stretch across the sky in a great bow of colour as a reminder that you can all live in peace. The rainbow is a sign of friendship and hope for tomorrow."

And so, whenever the rain washes the world, look up... and as the rainbow appears in the sky, let us all remember our friendships new and old... and that tomorrow is always a new day."

Contributed by Theresa Rose, volunteer, Rio Grande Girl Scout Council

## **The Cord**

Before heading out to your chosen spot for you Scouts Own, all Cubs, Leaders, Helpers are given a rope. Each person then ties their rope with a reef knot to the next person's rope and then the next and so on, until we have one long length of rope. Then everyone including all adults form one line behind the leader, each with their left hand on the length of rope. Have an adult every 4 Cubs or so & one adult on the end of the rope. The Leader then leads the line to the chosen area for the Scouts Own and walks around until everyone is in a circle.

The Leader will then join both ends of the rope together to form the rope into a circle

**Leader:** – Now we have a circle. A circle of friendship. A circle that is just the same as the World Scout Emblem that we all wear on our uniforms. It shows that we are all members of the family of the World Scout Movement. The knots symbolises the strength of the unity of the World Scout Movement and our pack.

Poem to be read in turn by leaders and helpers;

**Reader 1:**

The Cord  
We are connected,  
Both you and I,  
  
By an invisible cord  
Not seen by the eye.

**Reader 2:**

It's not like this cord  
That connects us on earth  
This cord can't been seen  
By any on Earth.

**Reader 1:**

This cord does it's work  
Right from the start.  
It binds us together  
Attached to our hearts.

**Reader 2:**

I know that it's there  
though no one can see  
The invisible cord  
From you to me.

**Reader 1:**

The strength of this cord  
Is hard to describe.  
It can't be destroyed  
It can't be denied.

**Reader 2:**

It's stronger than any cord  
Man could create  
It withstands the test  
Can hold any weight.

**Reader 1:**

And when you are gone,  
And you're not here with me,  
The cord is still there  
But no one can see.

**Reader 2:**

I am thankful that God  
connects us this way  
Our Leaders & our Friends  
nothing can take it away!

Author Unknown

## Why?

This is one of the best explanations of why God allows pain and suffering that I have seen. It's an explanation other people will understand.

A man went to a barbershop to have his hair cut and his beard trimmed. As the barber began to work, they began to have a good conversation. They talked about so many things and various subjects.

When they eventually touched on the subject of God, the barber said: "I don't believe that God exists."

"Why do you say that?" asked the customer.

"Well, you just have to go out in the street to realize that God doesn't exist. Tell me, if God exists, would there be so many sick people? Would there be abandoned children? If God existed, there would be neither suffering nor pain. I can't imagine a loving God who would allow all of these things."

The customer thought for a moment, but didn't respond because he didn't want to start an argument.

The barber finished his job and the customer left the shop. Just after he left the barbershop, he saw a man in the street with long, stringy, dirty hair and an untrimmed beard. He looked dirty and un-kept.

The customer turned back and entered the barber shop again and he said to the barber: "You know what? Barbers do not exist."

"How can you say that?" asked the surprised barber. "I am here, and I am a barber. And I just worked on you!"

"No!" the customer exclaimed. "Barbers don't exist because if they did, there would be no people with dirty long hair and untrimmed beards, like that man outside."

"Ah, but barbers DO exist! What happens is, people do not come to me."

"Exactly!"- affirmed the customer. "That's the point! God, too, DOES exist! What happens, is, people don't go to Him and do not look for Him. That's why there's so much pain and suffering in the world."

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# QUOTES/SAYINGS

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- If you can't see the bright side, polish up the dark one and look at that. -Colin McKay
- When God measures man. He puts the tape measure around the heart, not the head.
- A winner says, "Let's find out."  
A loser says, "Nobody knows."
- A winner makes a mistake and says, "I was wrong."  
A loser makes a mistake and says, "It isn't my fault."
- A winner goes through a problem.  
A loser goes around it and never gets past it.
- A winner makes commitments.  
A loser makes promises

- A winner tries to learn from those who are superior.  
A loser tries to tear down those who are superior.
- A winner says, "There ought to be a better way."  
A loser says, "That's the way it's always been."
- Keep your thoughts positive because your thoughts become your words. Keep your words positive because your words become your behaviours. Keep your behaviours positive because your behaviours become your habits. Keep your habits positive because your habits become your values. Keep your values positive because your values become your destiny.

*Ghandi*

- Try to leave this world a little better than you found it and, when your turn comes to die, you can die happy in feeling that at any rate you have not wasted your time but have done your best

*Lord Baden-Powell*

- O God help me to win, but in your wisdom if I do not to win, then o God, make me a good loser

*Lord Baden Powell*

- When life gives you a hundred reasons to cry, show life that you have a thousand reasons to smile.
- Always put yourself in the other's shoes. If you feel that it hurts you, it probably hurts the person too.
- The happiest of people don't necessarily have the best of everything they just make the most of everything that comes along their way.
- God has perfect timing; never early, never late. It takes a little patience and it takes a lot of faith, but it's worth the wait. ♥

- Happy moments, praise God. Difficult moments, seek God. Quiet moments, worship God. Painful moments, trust God. Every moment, thank God.
- God won't ask what you did to help yourself, but will ask what you did to help others.
- God won't ask how many friends you had, but will ask how many people to whom you were a true friend.
- God won't ask what you did to protect your honour, but will ask what you did to protect the honour of others
- God won't ask how many times your actions matched your words, but will ask how many times they didn't.

- Just because you can't see it doesn't mean it isn't there. You can't see the future, yet you know it will come; you can't see the air, yet you continue to breathe.

*Claire London*

- Don't tell God how big your storm is....tell your storm how big your God is.