

The background of the entire page is a camouflage pattern in shades of brown, tan, and white. The pattern consists of irregular, blotchy shapes that create a disruptive visual effect.

# Operation Valor

**"Be on your guard; stand firm in the  
faith; be courageous; be strong."**

**1 Corinthians 16:13**

**Bible Exploration  
Battalion Camp - Grades 7-12**

## **WELCOME TO BRIGADE CAMP AT STONY GLEN**

Stony Glen is a place to explore and discover in a new and different environment. There is something special about being in the great outdoors experiencing the adventures of Brigade Camp. It is a chance to gain a new perspective on life. That's true for your approach to Bible study too. Like the great new experiences of camp, here's a chance to look at the Bible in a fresh new way. Allow the truths of the Bible to give you a fresh view of life and it's meaning.

## **MORNING SITUATION BRIEFING**

You'll begin each day with the Morning Situation Briefing. This will be your personal devotion. This is a special time for you to be alone with God. During this time you will begin to investigate the evidence for our case. Don't be afraid to ask God the tough questions that you may have about that day's subject. He gave us a mind to do just that. He wants us to ask Him. Also, write down your questions. You may want to ask your leader these questions.

## **DAILY SORTIE**

The Daily Sortie is a time for your Bible Exploration as a cabin group. While it's important to have time alone with God, it's also important to learn from and with each other. As you engage into each day's mission, share your thoughts and questions with the group. You will probably find that others in the group may have similar thoughts and struggles.

Give honest answers and avoid the temptation to say what you think others are expecting to hear. Don't be afraid to express your doubts and questions; that's how a good investigation goes. You must be willing to ask the tough questions and be willing to change your mind when presented with God's truth. Some questions in this Bible Exploration are personal. You don't need to give your answers out loud. Sometimes, though, it's great to share a 'personal' answer. You'll probably find that others in the group feel the same way you do. You might even help somebody in his journey through this adventure we call life.

# VALOR REQUIRES LEADERSHIP

## MORNING SITUATION BRIEFING

**PRAY** that God will help you understand who you are, your role in the world and your place with God.

**READ** Matthew 20:20-28

Today, we begin our look at valor and we will start with leadership. However, before we can begin to understand what valor is, we must first examine ourselves and understand our role in the world and our place with God.

Spend some time thinking about how you view yourself. Do you like yourself? I know sometimes I don't like myself and that is something we all struggle with from time to time. Understand that God created us in His image. More specifically, He made you in His image.

Looking at our actions, what about how you act or what you do; are you happy with how you act? Do you always do the "right" thing? What would God think about your behavior? God knows our heart, not just our actions.

God wants us to be real men. So, what does it mean to be a real man? That's our ultimate question for this week: to understand what a real man is. What a man of valor is!

## MEMORY VERSE

All a man's ways seem right to him, but the Lord weights the heart. - Proverbs 21:2

**Fast fact:**

**Kenneth  
Blanchard**

"The key to successful leadership today is influence, not authority."

# VALOR REQUIRES LEADERSHIP

## DAILY SORTIE: MISSION/EXECUTION

**PRAY** that God will open our hearts and minds to His Word and give us insight into true leadership. May He help us to learn it and put it into action.

### Fast fact:

#### Solon

“He who has learned how to obey will know how to command.”

So many of us want to do something that matters and what we really desire is our 15 minutes of fame. And many will try to get their 15 minutes through any way possible. This is what I call the Quest for Significance, a need to do something important that the world will recognize. We are constantly bombarded with people who are famous or even infamous and this makes this need even stronger.

What are we to do with this need to be significant?

**READ** Isaiah 64:6

What does Isaiah say our righteous (good) acts are like?

When we do good deeds with the wrong reasons or intentions, God does not recognize them.

### Leadership Puts Others First

How do we balance the quest for significance with good leadership? It starts with the confidence to put others first.

# VALOR REQUIRES LEADERSHIP

## DAILY SORTIE: COMMUNICATIONS

**READ** Matthew 20:20-28

How would you feel if your mother or father asked for you to receive special treatment to your boss or teacher?

Do you think the other 10 disciples were justified in their feelings toward the two brothers?

This is what can happen we try to promote ourselves over others.

How does Jesus say we are to lead?

What should our attitude be toward those we are to lead?

**READ** John 13:1-17

From the passage what is under Jesus' power? This is His positional power.

### fast fact:

**Nelson Mandela**

“It is better to lead from behind and to put others in front, especially when you celebrate victory when nice things occur. You take the front line when there is danger. Then people will appreciate your leadership.”

## VALOR REQUIRES LEADERSHIP

### DAILY SORTIE: RISKS - COLLABORATION

Why does Jesus the ruler/king/creator of the universe wash his disciples feet?

Jesus here is demonstrating personal power, the ability to lead without using your position. We all have it.

Would you be willing to wash someone's feet?

**READ** Luke 23:426-49

Jesus did not have to die on the cross. He choose to die. He died for the forgiveness of sins. He died specifically for you.

Where are you in your relationship with the King of kings and Lord of lords.

**READ** John 3:16

If you have not made a commitment to Christ the king, you need to acknowledge you are a sinner and you fall short of God's glory. Ask God to forgive you of all your sins and ask Him to help you follow Him.

**PRAY** Father in heaven thank You for Your gift of salvation. Thanks you for Christ the King, who's leadership is an example to us. Help us to follow Him.

#### Fast fact:

**John Quincy Adams**

“If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader.”

**Thomas Jefferson**

“In matters of style, swim with the current; in matters of principle, stand like a rock.”

# VALOR COMMANDS RESPECT

## MORNING SITUATION BRIEFING

**PRAY** That God will teach you what it means to have respect for others and to be worthy of respect.

**READ** 1 Samuel 24:1-22

Even though King Saul pursued David with the intent of killing him, David showed respect to King Saul and ultimately God. Today, we struggle with respecting ourselves or others, especially those who are our enemies,

To understand respect, we must answer two questions:

1. Who am I required to respect?
2. Why is respect important?

We often hear that God calls us to love others unconditionally. But, God also tells us to honor (respect) others as well. During today's mission, we discuss the idea of unconditional respect and its importance in our lives.

Though the study we will read the story of Brigadier General Joshua Chamberlain who is remembered for his bravery and for the respect he elicited from everyone, even his enemies during the Civil War.

**PRAY** That God will teach you what it means to have respect for others and to be worthy of respect.

## MEMORY VERSE

For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline. - 2 Timothy 1:7

### fast fact:

**Sir Winston Churchill**

“I am fond of pigs. Dogs look up to us. Cats look down on us. Pigs treat us as equals.”

## VALOR COMMANDS RESPECT

### DAILY SORTIE: MISSION/EXECUTION

**PRAY** Heavenly Father, King of Kings, give us your wisdom and knowledge about respect. Let us see one another through your eyes.

**READ** 1 Peter 2:17

Brigadier General Joshua Chamberlain was a man of Valor and a well-respected Civil War General. He is remembered for his bravery and for the respect he elicited from everyone, even his enemies. One of Chamberlain's most legendary battles was the "Defense of Little Round Top".

On July 2, 1863, Union General Joshua Chamberlain and the 20th Maine regiment were appointed to defend Little Round Top "at every hazard". As the Confederates seized Little Round Top, the Union regiments opened fire at close range and pushed the Confederates into taking shelter. However, soon after, a final assault by the Confederate forces came. All seemed lost for the 20th regiment on Little Round Top as their ammunition depleted, until a rash call by Chamberlain for the bayonet and hand-to-hand combat took the Confederates by surprise. Chamberlain's regiment stormed forward and caught the Confederate army off guard causing them to throw down their weapons and surrender. Chamberlain was a brave general and even his enemies had respect for him.

General Chamberlain was well respected by his own troops as well as the troops of the opposing Confederate army. However, Chamberlain was also known for his own acts of respect even toward his enemies.

#### fast fact:

**1 Peter 2:17**

Honor all men; love the brotherhood, fear God, honor the king

# VALOR COMMANDS RESPECT

## DAILY SORTIE: COMMUNICATIONS

Chamberlain demonstrated such respect during the April 1865 surrender of Lee's Army of Northern Virginia at Appomattox Court House. General Grant placed Chamberlain in charge of receiving the surrender of Confederate weapons and battle flags. As the conquered Confederate soldiers marched down the road to surrender their arms and colors, Chamberlain, without orders or permission, ordered his men to come to attention and "carry arms" (instead of presenting arms) as a show of respect. Chamberlain's simple act of soldierly respect was much appreciated, and was a first step in healing the nation's wounds.

How did Chamberlain put into practice I Peter 2:17?

Are there people in your life that you should respect and honor more?

Is there anyone that we do not need to show respect to?

What does the scripture mean by "honor the king"?

### Fast fact:

#### Respecting Others

"I speak to everyone in the same way, whether he is the garbage man or the president of the university."

Albert Einstein

## VALOR COMMANDS RESPECT

### DAILY SORTIE: RISKS - COLLABORATION

**READ** Ephesians 5:22-33

How is the husband to treat his wife?

After all the calls to the husband to love his wife, why is the wife commanded to respect her husband?

**READ** Philippians 2:3-4

How are we to show respect to others?

**READ** Acts 10:34-35

Who does God show respect to?

What we ultimately see here is unconditional respect. Like unconditional love, we are to respect (honor) all men.

#### **Call to Action**

Seek out ways to show respect to all people. Be known as a man of unconditional respect.

**PRAY** God, our King, give us a heart of honor that reflects your glory and honor to others that they may see You and know You.

#### **fast fact:**

#### **Mahatma Gandhi**

“I cannot conceive of a greater loss than the loss of one's self-respect.”

# VALOR PROTECTS THE WEAK

## MORNING SITUATION BRIEFING

**PRAY** Oh, Lord give me your heart for the weak and the outcast. Help me to stand for those that need protection and help.

**READ** Luke 10:30-37

Who was the one that helped the injured man?

What about the others? Why didn't they help him?

This is the story of the good Samaritan. The Samaritans were hated by the Jews during Jesus's day. They were the outcasts to the Jews, and yet Jesus used a Samaritan in his story to call attention to who we are to call our neighbor and who we are to protect and serve.

### Let's Get Personal

How do you treat those that are different from you? Do you laugh at them, tease them, ridicule them? We are so cruel to those that are different than us, and God despises us for it.

If you are an outcast, someone that has been ridiculed and bullied, know this God himself is your protector and defender. And remember Christ's example as He prayed for His Father to forgive those who were nailing him to the cross.

### MEMORY VERSE

Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. John 15:13

### fast fact:

#### Sortie

A sudden issuing of troops from a defensive position against the enemy.

## VALOR PROTECTS THE WEAK

### DAILY SORTIE: MISSION/EXECUTION

**PRAY** Lord show us your truth. Convict us of our pride and hatred. Help us to seek your forgiveness. Teach us to be protectors and not oppressors.

How do you think God sees the weak and oppressed?

Does God defend them?

I am reminded of a tragic shooting that took place at Sandy Hook Elementary School this past year, where a young man senselessly shot 20 children and 6 adults. I heard the story of one of the teacher's heroic deeds during that dark moment.

A young teacher, Victoria Soto, 27, was trying to get her students to hide in closets and cabinets when the gunman entered her classroom, which was near the location where the gunfire started. Soto reportedly told him the students were in the gym, and the gunman, after seeing only Soto, fatally shot her. None of her students were harmed.

The story of Victoria's heroism moved me when I heard it. The courage it takes to stand in the face of evil and protect her students from death is amazing.

The question that is often asked with a tragedy like this is: where was God during all of this? Or, why didn't God stop this?

Have you ever asked these questions? I have.

#### Fast fact:

**Jocelyn  
Murray  
Teen  
Historical  
Fiction Writer**

"Sometimes it takes great suffering to pierce the soul and open it up to greatness."

# VALOR PROTECTS THE WEAK

## DAILY SORTIE: COMMUNICATIONS

**READ** Psalm 46:1

God is our what?

Does this mean that God will not let bad things happen to us?

**READ** Genesis 6:5-6

How does man act? Are we any different today?

**READ** Psalm 51:5

Bad things happen because men are evil. When I treat others badly and do not do them good, am I any different from those that do evil?

**READ** Romans 3:22-24

Our salvation comes from God through Jesus Christ.

**God calls us to a different standard, His.**

**READ** 1 Samuel 2:8

How does God view the needy? Where does he place them?

**READ** Job 5:11

Where does He place the lowly, the outcast?

### fast fact:

**Michel de  
Montaigne  
French  
Author  
1533-92**

“Valor is strength, not of legs and arms, but of heart and soul; it consists not in the worth of our horse or our weapons, but in our own.”

## VALOR PROTECTS THE WEAK

### DAILY SORTIE: RISKS - COLLABORATION

**READ** Psalm 12:5

Who will God protect them from? Do you malign others?

**READ** Matthew 18:2-6

What will happen to those who harm children?

We must have courage to stand and defend those that cannot defend themselves. It may cost you friends and like Victoria, it could cost you your life. I am reminded of the scene from Braveheart where William Wallace address the sons of Scotland before a battle.

I AM William Wallace. And I see a whole army of my countrymen here in defiance of tyranny. You have come to fight as free men, and free men you are. What would you do without freedom? Will you fight? Aye, fight and you may die. Run and you'll live -- at least a while. And dying in your beds many years from now, would you be willing to trade all the days from this day to that for one chance, just one chance to come back here and tell our enemies that they may take our lives, but they'll never take our freedom!!!

We will all die; but what are you willing to live and fight for?

**PRAY** forgive us of our wickedness help us to be a defender of the weak and the outcast.

#### fast fact:

**Mathew  
11:28-29**

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.”

# VALOR DEFENDS TRUTH

## MORNING SITUATION BRIEFING

**PRAY** that God would help you to understand the importance of truth and our need to defend it.

**READ** Acts 12:1-11

Sometime we must stand up for what is right or what we believe in? To defend the truth, we must first know what the truth is and second we must have courage. The apostles knew the truth and had the courage to defend it.

Would you knowingly risk your life or possible die for a lie?

Would you risk your life for the truth? This is a harder question. Many of us would lie to get out of trouble when we know that the truth is we did something wrong. Also, I certainly would defend myself against accusation that were not true.

We are all going to die someday; it is what we stand for and how we live that defines who we are and the legacy we leave behind.

As you go about the day, think about what you stand for and how others see who you are. Are you living the truth or are you living a lie? Do you know the difference and do you have the courage to defend it?

## MEMORY VERSE

Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong.

1 Corinthians 16:13

### fast fact:

**Dr. Francis Schaeffer**

“Today not only in philosophy but in politics, government, and individual morality, our generation sees solutions in terms of synthesis and not absolutes. When this happens, truth, as people have always thought of truth, has died.”

## VALOR DEFENDS TRUTH

### DAILY SORTIE: MISSION/EXECUTION

**PRAY** that God would show you the importance of truth and our need to share it and sometimes defend it.

#### Fast fact:

**John Wycliffe**

“I believe that in the end the truth will conquer.”

What are you willing to die for? Family? Friends? An idea like freedom and liberty?

The Apostles were eye witnesses to the death and resurrection of Jesus. If it had been a lie, would they have been willing to face death defending it. Yet everyone of them faced death and would not change their story.

**READ** Acts 2:22-24

What is it that Peter tells the people?

In a court of law would Peter be considered an eye witness?

This morning you read were James, a son of Zebedee, a fisherman by trade when Jesus called him to a lifetime of ministry. As a strong leader of the church, James was ultimately beheaded at Jerusalem by Herod.

Peter also faced death. After teaching for over 30 years, Peter was crucified upside down on an x-shaped cross, according to church tradition because he told his tormentors that he felt unworthy to die in the same way that Jesus Christ had died.

# VALOR DEFENDS TRUTH

## DAILY SORTIE: COMMUNICATIONS

**READ** Matt 7:13-14

Is heaven easily obtained?

**READ** Matt. 18:8-9

Does Jesus really mean we should cut off our hand or feet or pluck out our eyes?

Here is a story of Cyrillus, a teenage who lived around 260AD taken for the book, *The Price of Liberty*. Cyrillus was a youth of Caesarea, who constantly called upon the name of Jesus, and would not suffer himself to be prevented, by threats and beating, from loudly confessing his faith. Some of the children of his own age persecuted him, and his own father drove him from home. The judge sent for him and said: My child, I will forgive you, and your father shall again receive you into the family; it is in your power to be your father's heir, if you are wise and consider your best interests." The boy replied, "I suffer willingly, God will receive me; I am not sad that I was driven from home, for I will receive a better dwelling place. I do not fear death, for it only brings me to a better life." having made this good confession he was bound and taken to the place of execution. The judge had secretly given orders that he should be brought back again, for he hoped that the sight of the fire would conquer his determination. Cyrillus, however, remained unmoved. When he was brought back the judge, moved with pity, began his representations anew.

### Fast fact:

**Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**

"I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word in reality. This is why right, temporarily defeated, is stronger than evil triumphant."

**Central Camp**

- 1 Dining Hall
- 2 Water Tower
- 3 Rec Hall
- 4 Gym
- 5 Carl Smith Chapel
- 6 Nurse Dispensary
- 7 Shower House
- 8 Candy Store
- ★ Welcome Center

**Cabins**

- 11 Mildon
- 12 Beech
- 13 Hawthorne
- 14 Stoddard
- 15 Crusader
- 16 Walnut
- 17 Hickory
- 18 Juniper
- 19 Maple
- 20 Cherry
- 21 Willow
- 22 Don's Place
- 23 Sam Gray Lodge
- 24 Pine
- 25 Bob & Connie Patrick Memorial Cabin

**Activity Areas**

- 40 Playground Area
- 41 Parade Field
- 42 Tennis Court
- 43 Volleyball Court
- 44 Soccer Field
- 45 Swimming Area
- 46 Boat House
- 47 Canoe Docks
- 48 Footprints Pavilion
- 49 Archery Range
- 50 Rifle Range
- 51 Horse Stables
- 52 Coral
- 53 Back 40

**Scenic Spots**

- Scenic Glen
- 60 Small Falls
- 61 Middle Falls
- 62 Big Falls
- 63 Historic Milner Cabin
- 64 Tree House
- 65 Cathedral Falls
- 66 Border Falls

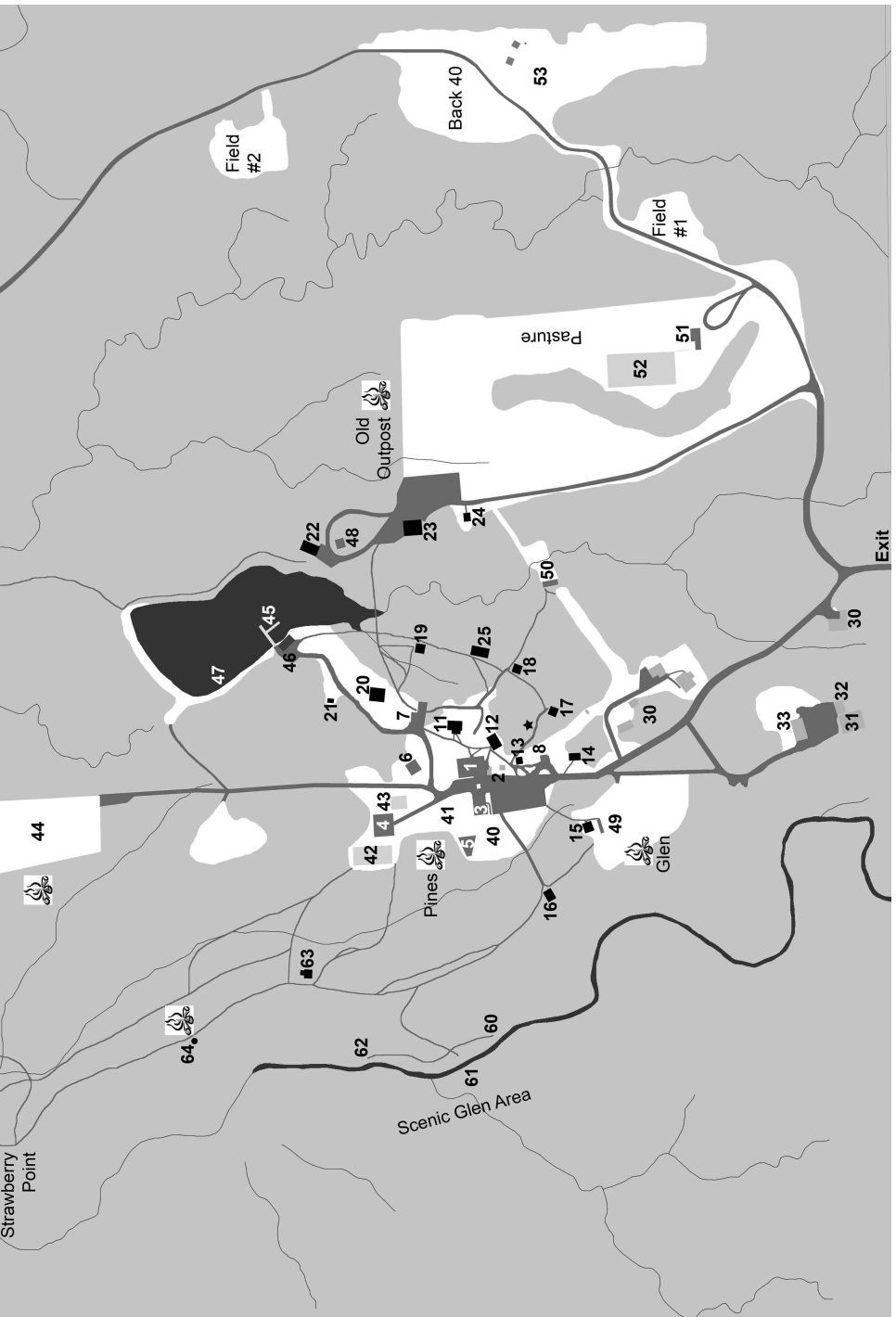
**Restrooms**

- 1 Dining Hall
- 3 Rec Hall
- 6 Nurse Dispensary
- 7 Shower House
- 23 Sam Gray Lodge

**Staff Areas**

- Off-limits**
- 30 Staff Housing
- 31 Maintenance Barn
- 32 Wood Shop
- 33 Vehicle Barn





## VALOR DEFENDS TRUTH

### DAILY SORTIE: RISKS - COLLABORATION

The youthful martyr replied: “Neither your fire nor your sword can harm me, for I am going to a better home, kill me quickly that I may soon be there.” When he saw those present weeping, he said: “You should rather rejoice; but you know nothing of the city to which I go.” Thus, unmoved, he went to meet death, to the astonishment of all the people, A.D. 260.

Cyrrillus was willing to die for the truth. He understood the truth that Jesus proclaimed to those that followed Him. This truth was that death here was not the end but the beginning of life with Him in paradise.

Would you be willing to die for your faith?

Jesus, Christ the King, often spoke of the rewards of heaven.

**READ** Matt. 6:20

Where are we to store our treasures?

**READ** Matt. 5:12

What does Jesus promise us?

**PRAY** that God would help you understand the significance of truth and it’s importance to salvation and to God, the Author of all truth.

#### Fast Fact:

**C.S. Lewis**

“If you look for truth, you may find comfort in the end; if you look for comfort you will not get either comfort or truth only soft soap and wishful thinking to begin, and in the end,

# VALOR HAS A MISSION

## MORNING SITUATION BRIEFING

**READ** Jeremiah 29:1-23

This week you have learned a lot about Valor and what it means to exhibit valorous qualities in your life. Jeremiah 29:11 makes it clear that God has a mission for you and He wants you to intentionally and methodically stay on course with that mission for your entire life.

Some people look at their lives and are saddened by how little impact they are making in the world or because are saddened by the struggles they face. God tells us through Jeremiah that even through our struggles or exiled to a foreign land He wants us to prosper.

Still, even where you are today, you can have a lasting impact if you choose to seek out God's mission for your life and stay on course. That is exactly what Dr. Benjamin Carson has done in his life as he charted a course and stuck with it even through adversity and struggle. You will hear his story later today.

**PRAY** That God will show you what His plan is for your life.

## MEMORY VERSE

For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. - Jeremiah 29:11

### Fast fact:

**Biography**  
**Dr. Ben Carson**

Is a highly distinguished pediatric neurosurgeon at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, MD.

## VALOR HAS A MISSION

### DAILY SORTIE: MISSION/EXECUTION

**PRAY** God you have given each one of us a role in this great story you are the author of. Help us to find our role and purpose in it.

#### Fast fact:

#### Biography Dr. Ben Carson

Is a highly distinguished pediatric neurosurgeon at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore,

#### Finding your mission and staying on course

Dr. Carson's modest beginnings are certainly what makes his career success amazing and almost unfathomable—he was an inner-city kid who literally went from "class dummy" to a world-renowned pediatric neurosurgeon. Many marvel at Dr. Carson's ability to overcome what many would consider impossible odds. Dr. Carson recalled the obstacles he overcame as a youth-reared up in an impoverished broken home in Detroit Michigan, with poor grades, a violent temper, and severe low self-esteem. But despite these unfavorable circumstances Dr. Carson obtained great success. Dr. Carson uses his dedication and God-given talent to take on seemingly impossible operations, giving children hope for a second-chance at a healthy and normal life.

Dr. Carson is a man with a mission. He could have let his circumstances overwhelm him and hinder his mission but he chose instead to overcome. Never let a "victim mentality" get in the way of becoming all that God created you to be.

Make no mistake; we were all created with a purpose. God gave each of us talents, abilities and passions to help us achieve the His perfect plan. However, we often stumble through life pursuing whatever brings us immediate gratification and we fail to put into place a long lasting and solid life mission that God intends for us to follow.

# VALOR HAS A MISSION

## DAILY SORTIE: COMMUNICATIONS

Go around your group and let each person explain what their life goals are. What would the “ideal” life look like for each person in your group?

**READ** Ephesians 2:10

What does God call each of us to do?

### God created us to do His good works

The bible says we are created after God’s own image. This means that we exhibit many of the same characteristics and passions that God is known for. God is a mighty creator and he takes joy in His creations. Ephesians 2:10 makes it clear that we were created for the good works of the Father.

What are the good works of the Father? What should/does your “mission” look like?

### Overcoming the “Victim Mentality”

We all know people who constantly complain about their situation or the “hand they were dealt” in life. Perhaps even you act like that from time to time. This is sometimes known as a “victim mentality” and people use it as an excuse for their failures and struggles in life. However, it is God’s will for your life to overcome your circumstances and rise up in strength and confidence for Him.

### fast fact:

#### Victim Mentality

an acquired (learned) personality trait in which a person tends to regard him or herself as a victim of the negative actions of others, and to think, speak and act as if that were the case - even if the absence of

## VALOR HAS A MISSION

### DAILY SORTIE: RISKS - COLLABORATION

As a group, discuss the things that are hindering your mission in life.

#### Fast fact:

**Erma Bombeck**

“When I stand before God at the end of my life, I would hope that I would not have a single bit of talent left, and could say, 'I used everything you gave

#### Staying on course

Once you have decided what your mission is in life it is important not to let the things of this world throw you off course. Perhaps a certain habit or a particular person (or group of people) has constantly hindered your mission. The bible says in I Corinthians 15:33 that “bad company corrupts good character”.

Are there people in your life who are hindering your mission?

In contrast, there are also people in life who want to help you stay on course and be all you can be for Christ. It is important that you surround yourself with these good mentors and learn from them. Proverbs 13:20: Walk with the wise and become wise, for a companion of fools suffers harm.

Who is a good role model/mentor in your life?

Remember, as you pursue your life mission be sure to look for good role models who will inspire you to overcome your circumstances.

**PRAY** That God will fill you with purpose and surround you with positive mentors throughout your life.

## MISSION DEBRIEFING

### MORNING SITUATION BRIEFING

**READ** Mark 8:34-35

Jesus tells us to take up our cross and we must lose our life to gain it back. We must be fully committed to Christ our King. The mission will not be easy, but it will be an adventure

**READ** Mathew 11:28-30

These two passages seem to contradict each other. How can we take up our cross and follow Jesus but His burden is light? Philippians 4:13 says “I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me.”

What an amazing King we can serve. He willingly died on the cross in our place for our sins as the perfect sacrifice. Plus, He gives us strength to endure the troubles of this life and an adventure to live as a knight of valor in His name. And when our journey is complete, He promises a rich reward in paradise with Him continuing the adventure.

I love the scene in The Return of the King where Gandalf and Pippin face death. Gandalf gives a great picture of that next adventure. “End? No, the journey doesn't end here. Death is just another path... One that we all must take. The grey rain curtain of this world rolls back, and all turns to silver glass. And then you see it. White shores... And beyond. A far green country, under a swift sunrise.”

**PRAY** My God and King help me to follow you in this great story of yours, help me to see my part, and help me to persevere through your strength and wisdom. Amen.

**fast fact:**

**Mere Christianity**

Until you have given up yourself to Him you will not have a real self.

C.S. Lewis

## RESOURCES

### SERVICE SUPPORT

In developing this Bible Exploration, we have used a number of different resources. We encourage you to continue the mission.

### MARTYRDOM of the APOSTLES

**Matthew**, the tax collector, so desperately wanted the Jews to accept Christ. He wrote The Gospel According to Matthew about ten years before his death. Because of this, one can see, contained within his Gospel, the faith for which he spilled his blood. Matthew surely remembered his resurrected Savior's words, "Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world" (Matt. 28:20), when he professed the resurrected Christ unto his death by beheading at Nad-Davar in Ethiopia.

**John** faced martyrdom when he was boiled in a huge basin of boiling oil during a wave of persecution in Rome. However, he was miraculously delivered from death. John was then sentenced to the mines on the prison island of Patmos. He wrote his prophetic Book of Revelation on Patmos. The apostle John was later freed and returned to serve as Bishop of Edessa in modern Turkey. He died as an old man, the only apostle to die peacefully.

**Peter** was crucified upside down on an x-shaped cross, according to church tradition because he told his tormentors that he felt unworthy to die in the same way that Jesus Christ had died.

## RESOURCES

### SERVICE SUPPORT

**James the Just**, the leader of the church in Jerusalem, was thrown over a hundred feet down from the southeast pinnacle of the Temple when he refused to deny his faith in Christ. When they discovered that he survived the fall, his enemies beat James to death with a fuller's club. This was the same pinnacle where Satan had taken Jesus during the Temptation.

**James the Greater**, a son of Zebedee, was a fisherman by trade when Jesus called him to a lifetime of ministry. As a strong leader of the church, James was ultimately beheaded at Jerusalem. The Roman officer who guarded James watched amazed as James defended his faith at his trial. Later, the officer walked beside James to the place of execution. Overcome by conviction, he declared his new faith to the judge and knelt beside James to accept beheading as a Christian.

**Simon the Zealot**, was a Jewish zealot who strived to set his people free from Roman oppression. After he saw with his own eyes that Christ had been resurrected, he became a zealot of the Gospel. Historians tell of the many different places that Simon proclaimed the good news of Christ's resurrection: Egypt, Cyrene, Africa, Mauritania, Britain, Lybia, and Persia. His rest finally came when he verified his testimony and went to be with Christ, being crucified by a governor in Syria.

## RESOURCES

### SERVICE SUPPORT

**Bartholomew**, also known as Nathanal, was a missionary to Asia. He witnessed to our Lord in present day Turkey. Bartholomew was martyred for his preaching in Armenia when he was believed to have been flayed to death by a whip and then crucified.

**Andrew** was crucified on an x-shaped cross in Patras, Greece. After being whipped severely by seven soldiers they tied his body to the cross with cords to prolong his agony. His followers reported that, when he was led toward the cross, Andrew saluted it in these words: "I have long desired and expected this happy hour. The cross has been consecrated by the body of Christ hanging on it." He continued to preach to his tormentors for two days until he expired.

**Thomas** is known as "doubting Thomas" because of his reluctance to believe the other Apostles' witness of the resurrection. After they told him that Christ was alive, he stated "Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe" (John 20:25). After this, Christ did appear to him and Thomas believed unto death. Thomas sealed his testimony as he was thrust through with pine spears, tormented with red-hot plates, and burned alive in India during one of his missionary trips to establish the church in the subcontinent.

## RESOURCES

### SERVICE SUPPORT

**Judas Thaddeus** questioned the Lord: "Judas said to him (not Iscariot), Lord, how is it that you will show yourself to us, and not unto the world?" (John 14:22). After he witnessed Christ's resurrection, Judas then knew the answer to his question. Preaching the risen Christ to those in Mesopotamia in the midst of pagan priests, Judas was beaten to death with sticks, showing to the world that Christ was indeed Lord and God.

**Matthias** replaced Judas Iscariot (the betrayer of Christ who hanged himself) as the twelfth Apostle of Christ (Acts 1:26). It is believed by most that Matthias was one of the seventy that Christ sent out during his earthly ministry (Luke 10:1). This qualifies him to be an apostle. Matthias, of which the least is known, is said by Eusebius to have preached in Ethiopia. He was later stoned while hanging upon a cross.

**Philip** was corrected by Christ when he asked Christ to "show us the Father, then this will be enough for us" (John 14:8). Christ responded, "Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how can you say, 'Show us the Father?'" (John 14:9). Philip later saw the glory of Christ after the resurrection and undoubtedly reflected with amazement on Christ's response to his request. Philip evangelized in Phrygia where hostile Jews had him tortured and then crucified.

## RESOURCES

### SERVICE SUPPORT

**Paul** was believed to have been tortured and then beheaded by the evil Emperor Nero at Rome in A.D. 67. Paul endured a lengthy imprisonment which allowed him to write his many epistles to the churches he had formed throughout the Roman Empire. These letters, which taught many of the foundational doctrines of Christianity, form a large portion of the New Testament. Most scholars believed that Paul was released from house arrest in Rome in c. 62 A.D., and that he may have made a fourth missionary journey, which may have gone as far as Spain (Rom 15:24, 28). Church tradition says that Nero executed Paul in Rome c. 67 A.D.

**Luke** was hanged in Greece as a result of his tremendous preaching to the lost.

**Jude**, the brother of Jesus, was killed with arrows when he refused to deny his faith in Christ.

The details of the martyrdoms of the disciples and apostles are found in traditional early church sources. These traditions were recounted in the writings of the church fathers and the first official church historian Eusebius. Although we can not at this time verify every detail historically, the universal belief of the early Christian writers was that each of the apostles had faced martyrdom faithfully without denying their faith in the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

## **RESOURCES**

### **SERVICE SUPPORT**

#### **SEVEN POINTS of VALOR**

##### **Honor**

A man of honor is a man of integrity; he guards every word and action against any falsehood.

Ephesians 4:25 says, "Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbor, for we are all members of one body."

##### **Courage**

A man of courage is one whose strength of mind enables him to overcome any fear or danger.

Joshua 1:9 says, "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."

##### **Chivalry**

A man who is chivalrous shows respect for others. He is considerate and puts others before himself.

Philippians 2:3&4 say, "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others."

##### **Purity**

A man who is pure is clean in heart, mind, speech and body.

Psalms 119:9&11 say, "How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word. I seek you with all my heart. Do not let me stray from your commands. I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you."

## RESOURCES

### SERVICE SUPPORT

#### SEVEN POINTS of VALOR - cont.

##### **Loyalty**

A man who is loyal is one who is true in affections and allegiance.

I Corinthians 15:58 says, "Therefore my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourself fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain."

##### **Obedience**

An obedient man is one who follows the commands of God's Word and complies with the wishes of those in authority over him.

Psalms 119:33&34 say, "Teach me, oh Lord, to follow your decrees; then I will keep them to the end. Give me understanding, and I will keep your law and obey it with all my heart."

##### **Dedication**

A dedicated man is one who has committed his whole self to Jesus Christ.

Romans 12:1&2 say, "Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God. This is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is; his good, pleasing, and perfect will."

## RESOURCES

### SERVICE SUPPORT

*Mere Christianity*

C.S. Lewis

*Trilogy*

Dr. Francis Schaeffer

*Case for Christ*

Lee Stobel

*Without a Doubt: Answering the 20 Toughest Faith Questions*

Kenneth Richard Samples

Youth World

[www.ubdavid.org/youthworld/ttt/timely-topics\\_01.html](http://www.ubdavid.org/youthworld/ttt/timely-topics_01.html)

The Hound of Heaven

[www.bible.org/article/hound-heaven](http://www.bible.org/article/hound-heaven)

“The Hound of Heaven” by Francis Thompson

[www.bartleby.com/236/239.html](http://www.bartleby.com/236/239.html)

Roman Road—Got Questions

[www.gotquestions.org/Romans-road-salvation.html](http://www.gotquestions.org/Romans-road-salvation.html)

Climbing for Christ

[www.climbingforchrist.org](http://www.climbingforchrist.org)

*Raising a Modern Day Knight*

Robert Lewis

[www.rmdk.com/](http://www.rmdk.com/)

*Wild at Heart*

John Eldredge

[www.ransomedheart.com](http://www.ransomedheart.com)

## **God's Plan of Salvation**

### **What is God Like**

God made you and loves you. He wants you to be His child. But God is perfect and holy. He hates sin and can't even look at it.

### **What Are We Like**

Here's the problem - all of us have sinned. We have all done many wrong things. Sin separates us from God and sin must be punished. "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23)

### **God's Solution**

What's the solution? God loved you so much that He gave His only Son, Jesus, to take the punishment for your sin. Instead of punishing you, God punished Jesus. "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16) "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." (Romans 6:23)

### **Your Part**

What do you have to do? Jesus' death allows you to be friends with God. Here is what you have to do:

1. Believe Jesus died for you personally.
2. Tell Jesus you are sorry for the sin in your life and want to be changed.
3. Ask Jesus to take away your sins and to direct your life.

*"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, though shalt be saved."* (Romans 10:9)

When you give your life to Jesus, you become His child and belong to His family! Wow! What could be better?

## WHAT IS CHRISTIAN SERVICE BRIGADE and Who is CSB Ministries?

**Our Mission:** Christian Service Brigade is part of CSB Ministries headquartered in Wheaton, Illinois. We have representatives located throughout the U.S. and Canada. We provide weekly programs that enable men to guide groups of boys and young men through adventure-packed, action-filled experiences that grow young people closer to God... and equip them to be our leaders of tomorrow.

**Partners:** CSB Ministries offers programs and resources for evangelical churches. CSB serves these churches through training leaders and providing ministry tools that equip men and women to serve Christ.

### **Ministries:**

**Tadpoles/Tree Climbers:** For boys (ages 4-7), Pre-K through 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade  
At Tadpoles/Tree Climbers, young boys spend quality time with their dads and other adult Christian men. Together, men and kids have fun, learn about God's creation, and grow closer to God and each other.

Games, projects, adventures and snacks are centered around a weekly theme and Bible verse. Young boys flourish with the one-on-one time with godly men.

**Stockade:** Boys (ages 8-11), 3<sup>rd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> Grades

Stockade is a weekly opportunity for guys to spend time with guys. Adult Christian men serve as their role models, and demonstrate Christian Manhood in action and attitude.

Through physical and mental activities, fun, service, achievement and Bible stories, boys develop the foundations of godly character and leadership skills.

**Battalion:** Young men (ages 12 – 18) 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grades

In CSB's hallmark program, Battalion, adult Christian men disciple teenage boys. Young men grow through physically and mentally challenging activities, Bible studies, service projects and personal hands-on leadership experiences.

Action time, game time, achievement challenges, small group meetings, council rings, adventure outings, and competitions allow young men to gain practical life skills, learn cooperation, develop teamwork – and become leaders of tomorrow.

**GEMS:** For girls 1<sup>st</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grades

*CSB Ministries also partners with GEMS girls' programs to enable women to guide groups of girls through adventure-packed, action-filled experiences to help them grow closer to God and equip them to be our leaders of tomorrow.*

Go to [www.csbministries.org](http://www.csbministries.org) to see the full compliment of programs from CSB Ministries.

## **Battalion Sunday Schedule**

1:00 Registration & Swim Tests  
3:45 Recall (Change from Swim Suits)  
4:00 Line-up and Orientation  
4:30 Cabin Photos  
5:30 Clean-Up  
5:40 Supper Line-Up (Dining Hall)  
5:45 Supper  
6:30 Store Time & Make-up Swim Tests  
7:15 Battalion Action/Ranger's Special  
8:15 Leaders' Huddle (Campfire Prayer)  
8:30 Clean-Up & Prepare for Campfire  
8:45 Line-up and Flag Lowering  
8:50 Campfire  
10:00 Call To Quarters  
10:15 Cabin Devotions  
10:30 Taps (All Quiet)

## **Battalion Daily Schedule**

7:00 Leaders' Huddle  
7:30 Reveille  
7:50 Line Up & Flag Raising  
8:00 Personal Devotions  
8:15 Breakfast Line-Up (Dining Hall)  
8:20 Breakfast  
8:45 Cabin Clean-Up  
9:15 Skill Period A  
11:30 Clean-Up  
11:40 Lunch Line-Up (Dining Hall)  
11:45 Lunch  
12:15 Store Time  
12:45 Bible Exploration  
2:00 Skill Period B  
4:15 Free Time  
5:30 Clean-Up  
5:40 Supper Line-Up (Dining Hall)  
5:45 Supper  
6:30 Store Time  
7:15 Battalion Action/Ranger's Special  
8:15 Leaders' Huddle (Campfire Prayer)  
8:30 Clean-Up & Prepare for Campfire  
8:45 Line-up and Flag Lowering  
8:50 Campfire  
10:00 Call To Quarters  
10:15 Cabin Devotions  
10:30 Taps (All Quiet)

## **Battalion Wednesday Schedule**

7:00 Leaders' Huddle  
7:30 Reveille  
7:50 Line Up & Flag Raising  
8:00 Personal Devotions  
8:15 Breakfast Line-Up (Dining Hall)  
8:20 Breakfast  
8:45 Cabin Clean-Up  
9:15 Skill Period A  
11:30 Clean-Up  
11:40 Lunch Line-Up (Dining Hall)  
11:45 Lunch  
12:15 Store Time  
12:45 Bible Exploration  
2:00 Skill Period B  
4:15 Free Time  
5:30 Clean-Up  
5:40 Line-up and Flag Lowering  
6:00 Cookout (Dinner-Campfire-Sleep out)

## **Battalion Saturday Schedule**

7:00 Leaders' Huddle  
7:30 Reveille  
7:40 Battalion Formation & Flag Raising  
7:45 Police the Grounds for Trash  
8:00 Personal Devotions  
8:10 Breakfast Line-Up (Dining Hall)  
8:15 Breakfast  
9:00 Cabin Clean-Up  
10:00 Cabin Inspection & Check-Out