GOD & CHURCH Program – as a lock-in

God & Church is the third phase of the [PrayPub](http://PrayPub.org) discipleship program that is recognized for Christian Protestant Scouts. It is designed for 6th thru 8th grade youth (including Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, etc.) and is the next phase of growth beyond God & Me (1st thru 3rd grades) and God & Family (4th & 5th grades).

# Lock-In Format Overview

The typical schedule for God & Church is eleven (11) meetings, including the introductory session, seven lesson meetings and three “Mile Marker” unit wrap-ups. Instead, OUR schedule will be three (3) single, overnight lock-ins and a closing party/event, spread over a three month period. Each lock-in will include multiple lessons from the program guide, small group time for discussion and project work, and free time. Warning, huge amounts of snacks will be consumed and big fun will be had, so be prepared.

The following guide is offered to: 1) request feedback from other Scout leaders who have experience with delivering the God & Church curriculum on the viability of the lock-in format and 2) to then equip others to learn from the structure and hopefully recreate it or build from it.

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G&C Lockin Guide v0.1 – initial draft 2014-03-26 Jason@ScoutingForGod.org

**DRAFT for FEEDBACK by Scouting Community**

# Why Do Lock-in’s?

While many Cub Scouts often earn their God & Me award, and thereby the BSA Youth Religious Award (“purple knot”), a significant portion of those Scouts do not continue their discipleship development with the other courses in the series. One likely reason for this is the diverse range of time demands that are placed on youth as they grow through Boy Scouts, academics, sports-programs, other church programs, etc.

To address this, the Five Trails District of Circle Ten Council delivered the second course in the series as a single overnight lock-in. With homework assigned beforehand, the typical six-week curriculum was delivered in a day to Scouts that likely would not have participated in it otherwise.

To download the guide on delivering ***God & Family* as a lock-in**, click [here](http://scoutingforgod.org/index.php/2012/10/how-to-deliver-god-family-as-a-weekend-lock-in/).

With the richer curriculum, including multiple projects that must be done during the course, God & Church cannot be done in a single lock-in, but may be deliverable in three lock-ins.

# Course Schedule

The typical schedule for God & Church is eleven (11) meetings, including the introductory session, seven lesson meetings and three “Mile Marker” unit wrap-ups. OUR schedule will be three (3) single, overnight lock-ins and a closing party/event, spread over a three month period.

Each lock-in will start around 6PM on Friday and conclude before noon Saturday, including multiple lessons from the program guide, small group time for discussion and project work, and free time. Warning, huge amounts of snacks will be consumed and big fun will be had, so be prepared.

## LOCK-IN ONE – Lessons 1, 2 and 3

* Introduction
	+ Students become acquainted with each other & counselors
	+ Discuss the God & Church overall curriculum and the video/photo projects
	+ Establish a daily Bible reading plan
* LESSON 1 -- Meeting Jesus, the Person
	+ Understand that Jesus shared our humanity
	+ Know why it is important that Jesus was human
	+ Become familiar with several events in the life of Jesus
* LESSON 2 -- meeting Jesus, the Son of God
	+ Understand that Jesus is fully divine; he is the Son of God
	+ Hear the Good News of Jesus
* LESSON 3 -- Meeting Jesus, the Head of the Church
	+ Know that Jesus invites us into relationship with the Church
	+ Learn about the history of your congregation and denomination
	+ Become familiar with the important beliefs of your denomination
	+ Memorize a creed, statement of belief, or passage of scripture
* VIDEO/PHOTO 1 focuses on Jesus
* PROJECT 1 -- Daily Bible Reading

## LOCK-IN TWO – Lessons 4 & 5 and BSA Chaplain Training

* Conclude PROJECT 1 -- Discuss Daily Bible Reading
* Show VIDEO/PHOTO 1 on Jesus
* LESSON 4 -- Learning How Christ Worshiped God
	+ Understand how Jesus worshiped God in his everyday living
	+ Learn about prayer
* BSA Chaplains' Aide Training
	+ What BSA says about faith, reverence and worship within Troops
	+ Delivering Interfaith and single-faith reverence programs
	+ How to deliver a Scouts' Own Service at a Scouting function
* LESSON 5 -- Exploring How My Congregation Worships God
	+ Understand the worship service of your congregation
	+ Student and counselor attend a worship service together
* Small groups, by denomination, where possible
* VIDEO/PHOTO 2 -- How congregations worship
* PROJECT 2 -- Discovering how I can worship God

## LOCK-IN THREE – Lessons 6 & 7 and Service Project

* Conclude PROJECT 2 -- Discuss the worship-experiences
* Show VIDEO/PHOTO 2 on worship experiences
* LESSON 6 -- Learning How Christ Witnessed and Ministered to Others
	+ Understand how witnessing and ministering go hand in hand
	+ Learn of Jesus' compassion for people who are hurting
* LESSON 7 -- Exploring How My Congregation Witnesses and Ministers to Others
	+ Study the structure of your congregation
	+ Learn about the outreach programs of your congregation
	+ Learn the requirements for joining your congregation
* VIDEO/PHOTO 3 -- the witness and ministries of your congregation
* PROJECT 3 - Discovering how to witness and minister to others
* SERVICE PROJECT serving within a local ministry or community outreach

## CLOSING EVENT

* Conclude PROJECT 3 -- Discuss witness/ministry opportunities
* Viewing of final videos & showing of photo albums
* Final Reviews to be performed by pastor(s) … or other clergy/staff
* Participants should have opportunity to share what they learned from the course
* Party / Celebration – to potentially coincide with closing event for God & Family class
* Completion certificates presented with optional awards presented at Troop CoH’s

# Course Notes

1. Set agenda expectations
	* Three lock-ins, where we will cover multiple lessons, have time to work on projects and discussion among small groups, and also have some free/game time.
	* Closing event, including a final meeting with a youth pastor, the opportunity to share your videos, photos and what the course has meant to you, and a party to celebrate the conclusion of the course.

##  Definitions used in the Course

* CHURCH - the larger Body of Christ (all believers)
* CONGREGATION - the group of believers within a local house of worship
* DENOMINATION - the unifying set of beliefs across a range of congregational churches, fellowships or associations.

# Adult Team

**Course Counselor**

* Scout leader, preferably with religious-leadership experience also
* Coordinates staff recruitment, participant-registration, and venues
* On-site leader for lock-ins and final event
* Supports unit teachers, as needed

**Photo/Video Coordinator(s)**

* Scout or ministry volunteer with technical and/or artistic skills
* Avail during lock-in’s and on-call in-between in support of video projects and photo albums
* Co-manage any community projects

**(3+) Unit Teachers for overnight, will teach up to two 75m lessons per weekend**

* Youth-ministry teachers/mentors, who are preferably also Scouting volunteers
* Teach/co-teach the actual lessons (75m), one per lock-in
* Co-manage any community projects

**(3+) Youth Pastors (Protestant) or other Lay Ministry Leaders**

* Clergy or other church staff, ideally serving in youth ministry roles
* Share details of denomination’s history and tenants
* Support scouts’ visits to local churches/tours
* Identify opportunities where scouts might participate in a worship/church program
* Participates in final review counseling

**Closing Party Planner**

* For closing event = awards, testimonies, video/photo show, food
* Orders awards for presentation