

## DAY SIX – THE BLESSING OF TODAY

*For the Chaplain: Today's course material includes the participant-led Interfaith Worship Service and Leaving Legacy, as well as closing ceremonies and dismissal.*

On our last day, it can be hard to focus on today, as we start thinking about travels, and rejoining the world that we said good bye to a week ago. But today isn't over yet – so don't waste today, thinking about tomorrow.

Please prepare your heart for prayer:

Thank you for today! Thank you for this time together. Thank you for the opportunities tomorrow, as well as the opportunities that are still to come today. Please help us to look back fondly on our yesterdays, to be excited about the potential of however many tomorrows that we might have, but to not lose sight of the today that we have right now. Thank you for today and please carry us forward safely into what lies ahead after.

*[pause for silent meditation]*

Amen



## Wood Badge Devotional

### Six Days of Gilwell Thoughts and Prayers

Jason Buffington

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Digital copies of this devotional guide, previous Wood Badge sermons and related instructional materials can be found at [www.ScoutingForGod.org](http://www.ScoutingForGod.org)

## Wood Badge Course – Devotional

### DAY FIVE – GIVE BACK by PAYING FORWARD

Each day at Gilwell Field, the Scoutmaster or Chaplain will have the opportunity to deliver a daily devotional, as part of the assembly. This guide was originally developed for the six-day format, with the expectation that it might be modified to fit future Wood Badge Courses.

For each day, there are four elements:

Chaplains' notes – listing which Wood Badge curriculum is being presented later that day, in order to give context for the daily devotional. This is intended for the speaker, but not to be shared with the participants until after the course.

Introduction – an opening thought or scenario to set the tone, which reflects elements of the upcoming day and shows where prayer or growth might be coveted.

Prayer – an ecumenical prayer, suitable for all faiths, to further focus the hearts and minds of the participants and staff, and then allow them a moment of silent meditation for their own communing with their understanding of their Creator.

Space – where a supplemental scripture or additional prayers might be written, depending on the format at faith basis of the course.

I hope that you find this useful. If there are suggestions for improvement, please consider sending them to [Jason@ScoutingForGod.org](mailto:Jason@ScoutingForGod.org).

### **Jason Buffington**

Course Chaplain for Circle Ten Wood Badge 110  
S2-571-14-3 at Philmont in August 2014

*For the Chaplain: Today's course material includes Coaching/Mentoring, Conservation Project, Patrol Presentations, and Ticket Development. Optional scripture references might include "service" and "leadership."*

If you look down the trail that we are on, you can start to see where the paths will diverge for many of us. The forks in the road are not the end of anything, but simply where we must make decisions on where to go next – and what will we take with us when we venture on. The question is how has this journey prepared you for the next one? Which new friends will you look to for encouragement and you push forward? And what or who will be on the path ahead that needs what you have learned on this trail?

Please prepare your hearts for prayer:

Thank you for today! Thank you for all of those that journeyed before us, so that we might be here now. Thank you for the opportunity to see ourselves and our place in the world in new ways. What else can you help us see? Who else is bound for the journey that we have enjoyed, such that we can lift them up? Where do we need to do more? What do we need to do different? How can we help make tomorrow better for those whose journey is unfolding? Open our eyes and hearts, so that we can carry today's joy and wisdom into wherever we are led tomorrow.

*[pause for silent meditation]*

Amen

## DAY FOUR – JOURNEYS

*For the Chaplain: Today's course material includes Leading Change, Generations, Problem Solving and Managing Conflict. Optional scripture references might include "change" or "comfort."*

Today, we find ourselves still early in our journey together. Whether from Tiger Cub to Eagle Scout – or from child to spouse to parent to elder – as our individual journeys progress, our journeys should not be defined by how we are changed, but how we choose to adapt and also how we interact with those that share the journey with us, no matter how brief or long that shared time is.

Please prepare your hearts for prayer:

Thank you for today! Thank you for the journeys that we are on – as individuals and this brief but sweet time together. But the trail is only so wide and for some, the obstacles are not only steep but seem to grow before our eyes. Help us to remember that the journey that we are on is the journey that you planned for us. Help us to see where there are opportunities to do good work along the trail. Help us to enjoy those that are on the trails that we share. Help us to be gracious to those around us, as our journeys carry us forward to places that we cannot imagine.

*[pause for silent meditation]*

Amen

## DAY ONE – NEW BEGINNINGS

*For the Chaplain: Today's course material includes Listening to Learn, Joining the Pack, Patrol Formation, Crossing to the Troop, and Values, Mission and Vision. Optional scripture references might focus on "Eyes and Ears" or spiritual trust.*

Today is a day of new beginnings and fresh starts. It is not a day to rely on what we expect or believe, as much as it is a day to be open to what our Creator has in store for us. But by that definition, every day is a day of new beginnings – where in each new morning, we should rely more on our anticipations and trust, than in our expectations based on what has come before.

Please prepare your hearts for prayer:

Thank you for today! Thank you for the opportunities that in store for us today. Nothing enters our heart or mind that hasn't come through our eyes or ears. Please help us to have fresh eyes that see things that way that you see them, without the filters that our yesterdays might obscure the newness of today. Help us to hear more clearly, such that ideas may be received as they are intended, instead of how we might interpret them. Help us to not focus so much on what we already know, but to instead recognize what we can learn. And with our eyes and ears open, please let our minds receive what you have planned, so that we can do what needs to be done.

*[pause for silent meditation]*

Amen

## DAY TWO – COMING TOGETHER

*For the Chaplain: Today's course material includes Leveraging Diversity, Stages of Team Development, Communication, and the evening games. Optional scripture references might focus on "Heart" or friendship.*

The Scouting Trail, like many of our individual faiths, is rarely a wide path. Instead, in life and this week, we will find ourselves in unanticipated places, often with new acquaintances. On many trails, there are trials – where one alone might struggle, while a group might reflect back as one of the most enjoyable parts of the adventure.

Please prepare your hearts for prayer:

Thank you for today! Thank you for the opportunities on the trail that lies ahead. We know that we are never alone, in that we have you – and we have each other, as part of your provision. Help us to rely not only on ourselves as we see trials ahead, but instead to celebrate the challenges ahead because of the power that comes from those around us. May our hearts be open to the friendships that could be. May our imaginations be fueled by the vision that we share -- and the power that comes embracing the potential of each other and your presence in this day.

*[pause for silent meditation]*

Amen

## DAY THREE – APPLICATION

*For the Chaplain: Today's course material includes Interfaith Instructional, EDGE, Patrol Project Development, October Sky. Optional scripture references might focus on "Hands" or collaboration.*

It has been said that the difference between Knowledge and Wisdom is Application. How many new ideas and experiences have you already had this week? How many new ideas and experiences do our Scouts gain over their journey? In both cases, the experiences aren't intended purely for instruction or entertainment, but so that we are better equipped to do something! If we do not apply what we have learned, than it was a waste to learn it.

Please prepare your hearts for prayer:

Thank you for today! We ask for your help so that as our eyes are opened and minds gain new understanding, that our backs might be strengthened and our hands emboldened – so that the lessons of today might be the actions of tomorrow. Please let this journey not end with our own entertainment, but instead, may it yield service to others and echoes that might last generations. Please help our feet to take us where we need to go, so that our hands can do what needs to be done.

*[pause for silent meditation]*

Amen