

WORK IN PROGRESS

Helping young girls and boys to grow more Christlike in all areas of life

GEMS & CADETS

Theme 2015



In all my prayers for all of you,
I always pray with joy because
of your partnership in the gospel
from the first day until now, being
confident of this, that he who began
a good work in you will carry it on to
completion until the day of
Christ Jesus.

Philippians 1:4-6



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LESSON 1

Work In Progress Finding Our Place

Life can be compared to a long journey or a hike. As we journey through life, we might start wondering things such as, "Am I enjoying this journey that I am on? Should I be trying to hike by myself or with others? Is God a part of my journey?"

It doesn't seem easy to figure these things out. It takes time. Remember we are each a work in progress and we are learning and developing all the time. Our lives, just like a hike, bring us new adventures every day to experience and to learn from. We might also notice that every journey has many different parts to it (just like our lives do). Some days life seems easy and sometimes much harder. But in the process, we will find out the type of person that we are becoming.

Let's Talk About It

- 1 Some days it's easy to make good decisions and follow Jesus, other days it's hard. Why do you think that is?
- 2 How does it help you (on easy days and on harder days) to know that you belong to God and to a group of Christians? (Hebrews 13:5b-8; John 15:19)
- 3 What might it mean to have a place and purpose in this world? (Psalm 100:3; Psalm 95:6-7; and 1 John 3:1)
- 4 What does it mean to say that you are giving yourself to Jesus? (Colossians 3:1-2, 12-15)
- 5 If you feel that the Holy Spirit wants you to give your life to God, who could you talk to?



Let's Remember

Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. **Philippians 1:6**

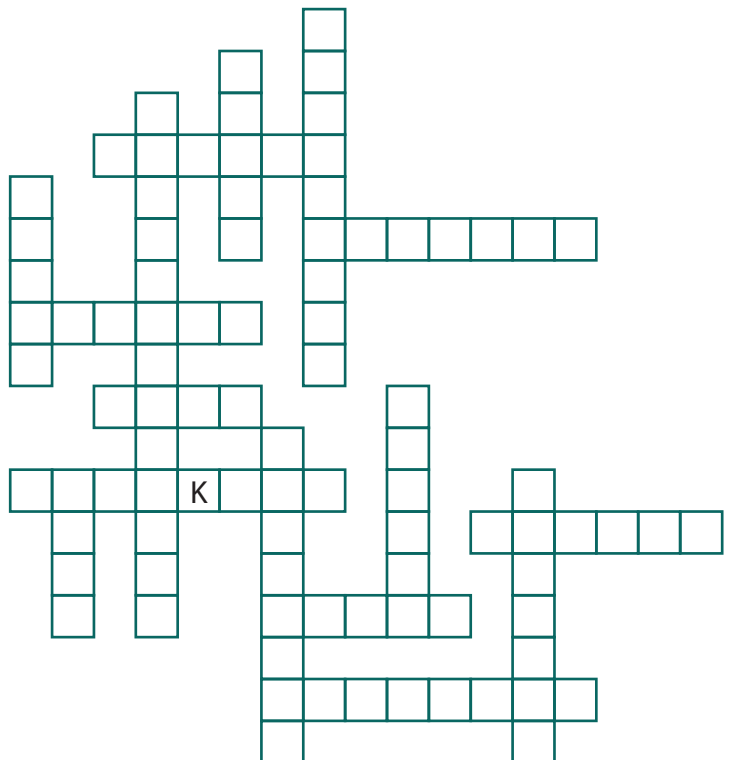
How do we figure out who we are? The answer comes by figuring out where and to whom we belong. It has been said before that "in order to best understand who we are, we should first understand whose we are." So, to whom do I belong? Do I belong to my parents? Do I belong to myself? Do I belong to God? In an important writing that talks about this question it answers, "I belong, body and soul, in life and in death to my faithful Saviour, Jesus Christ." (Heidelberg Catechism question #1)

So, we find that we do belong - we belong to Jesus Christ! We have a place in this world! We have an identity! We have a purpose! This is good because we want to belong somewhere. We want to be able to describe ourselves as being in a loving, caring group; a Christian group. We become part of this group by giving our hearts to Jesus. When you give your heart to Jesus, you are saying that you are giving Him all of who you are - your goals, your decisions, your mind, your body, your soul.

Let's Act On It

Once we have found our place with Jesus, the Holy Spirit helps us make progress. Fit the following words from Colossians 3 into the fill-in puzzle.

loved	holy	loving*	tolerant*
peace	raised	patient*	thankful*
unity	kind*	virtues	forgiving*
chosen	gentle*	humility*	compassionate*



Now choose one of the characteristics(*) from the list and work at showing that to others this week.

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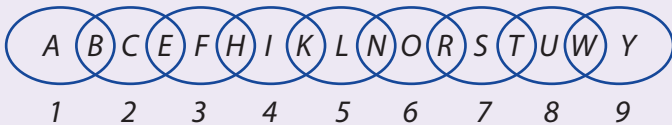
LESSON 2

Work In Progress Setting Goals

Can you imagine taking an overnight hike without thinking about where you are going or what you might need along the way? What would you do as you walked? How would you know when to stop? Why would you be hiking in the first place? You see, it is good to have goals before you start. Setting goals is important in all life situations. You might ask yourself — what am I going to do today? How am I going to act? How do I know I am making good choices? What are God's goals and God's plans for me? As a Christian, your goals and plans must fit with God's goals and plans for you.

Let's Talk About It

- 1** Solve the puzzle to read this passage. In what ways is life like going on a long hike? (Ephesians 5:15)



5 6 6 4,5 2 1 6,7 2,3 3 8 5 5 9

7,8 3,4 2,3 5,6 3,4 6 8,9 9 6 8

8,9 1 5 4,5 5,6 6 7,8 1 7

8 5,6 8,9 4 7 2,3 1,2 8 7,8

1 7 8,9 4 7 2,3

Ephesians 5:15 (ESV)

- 2** Fill in the missing words from Philippians 3:14 (NIV), and then discuss what could happen if we don't have goals.

I _____ on _____ the _____ to _____ the _____ for which God has _____ me _____ in Christ _____.

As you "journey" through life, remember that you are still a work in progress. God is working in you, and He's not finished with you yet. Philippians 1:6 says, "He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." Your goal is to be ready for Jesus' return. God is doing good work in your life and He wants you to do good work in the lives of others. He's with you every step of the way. Are you ready to take that hike with God? Are you setting goals that will lead you to hear Jesus say, "Well done!" at the end of your life?



- 3** Do you think that having goals always ends up being a good thing? (2 John 1:9)
- 4** Why is it important to know God's goals for us when setting goals for ourselves? (Colossians 3:1–4 and Proverbs 3:5–6)
- 5** What does Paul tell us in Philippians 3:12–14 about working towards accomplishing our goals?
- 6** What types of things might we do, so that we hear God tell us "well done"? (Matthew 25:21)

Let's Act On It

Are you making progress on the characteristic you chose last week? Has anyone noticed a change in you? Keep in mind that it is work and you're not finished yet. So work on the same characteristic again this week.

Let's Remember

"His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'" Matthew 25:21

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LESSON 3

Work In Progress Praying & Reading my Bible

In our last lesson we talked about God having goals for us. This week we are going to look at how we can have the kind of fellowship with God where we can know what God wants and what His goals for us are. Two things we already know for sure are that God wants us to talk with Him and that God wants us to listen to Him.

So it is a good thing for us to keep relating to Him more and more (progressing all the time). We need to find ways to talk to Him and hear Him talk to us. It would also help us if we could find a message written by God, with His own words, recorded for His people.



The good news is that we actually do have a way to talk to God and we do have such a message.

What a great thing it is that at any time and in any place we can pray to Him. He is never too busy to listen to us. Even more good news is the fact that we also have a whole book of God's messages for us. It is an awesome thing that God has given us

the Bible to tell us how to know Him and how to live on earth doing His work.

Psalm 119:105 says that God's Word (the Bible) is, "a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." We need to treasure that book like it's gold. We need to know what the Bible says.

What does God want you to do for Him today? The only way you can know the answer to that question is by praying and by reading the Bible.

Let's Talk About It

- Describe some different ways to talk to God in prayer. (2 Chronicles 7:14, Philippians 4:6, 1 Thessalonians 5:17)
- Do you think that some ways of talking with God might work better for you than other ways? (Philippians 4:6-7 and 1 John 5:14) If so, why might some ways be better than others?
- What are different ways that God might talk to you?
- Why might God not give us an answer to our prayers right away?
 - ◆ Psalm 66:18
 - ◆ 1 John 5:14--15
 - ◆ James 1:5--8
 - ◆ James 4:3
- God's silence sometimes means that He wants us to patiently wait. Why is this silence so hard to handle?
- What might you do to have a relationship with God that keeps getting better and better? (Matthew 4:4)

Let's Remember

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.

2 Timothy 3:16

- 7** Find the following words from our lesson in the word search puzzle.

written	training	lamp	prayer
Christian	talk	light	silence
Bible	doubt	study	relationship
answer	listen	Spirit	progress
confess	leading	teaching	communicate
patience	motive	goals	message
fellowship			

G L H R S K C Y Y P R M C U B
 O N E T S I L E N X E O E M L
 B I B L E P X A E D L T E J I
 L C S Q R L I F T P A I U T G
 B X L I G E C R T C T V G O H
 F E L L O W S H I P I E E R T
 Q G T V R M T N R T O C E E H
 J A T R P F U Q W I N W A P J
 O S Z T A M D A F E S C A T S
 E S O D M I Y O L N H T W G S
 R E B O V J N I A I I N I O E
 R M C U D P S I N E P L R A F
 F H I B J Y K G N I D A E L N
 B E P T E T F C J G T M N S O
 V I P R A Y E R L B K P F A C

Let's Remember

Paul tells us that all of the Bible is useful for getting "right" with God. If you are having trouble doing these things every day, remember that you are a work in progress. Keep trying. With God's help, we can do better and better in talking and listening to Him.

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LESSON 4

Work In Progress Making Decisions

Every day we make thousands of decisions. Some of our decisions are big decisions - like, should I respect my parents? Or, should I do my homework? Others are small decisions, like how many times I should chew my meat before I swallow it. Yet, all our decisions are important. Each decision reflects who we are as Christians. Hopefully, we make better decisions as we progress through our lives. Each choice we make should be based on our main goals in life. So how can we make decisions that fit with that goal - our goal to hear Jesus tell us, "Well done"?

Let's Talk About It

- 1 What decisions have you made in the last half hour?
- 2 How can you tell if your decisions are good ones? (2 Timothy 3:16, Psalm 119:9-12)
- 3 If your goal is to prepare for Jesus' return, then what should you be doing? (Micah 6:8b, 1 Corinthians 10:31)
- 4 What might you do to remind yourself to ask the three decision-making questions mentioned above?



Let's Remember

"I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you." **John 13:15**

God created us, gave us life, and showed us how we ought to live. Since we belong to God, then, there are a few questions we ought to ask ourselves before making decisions. Here are some:

- 1 What is best for God's kingdom? Remember it's His world and He wants us to take good care of it.
- 2 How can I choose life? God is the One who gives life to all and that includes eternal life with Him. All life is precious to God.
- 3 What would Jesus do? Jesus set the example that we are to follow and He clearly showed us the way we should act.

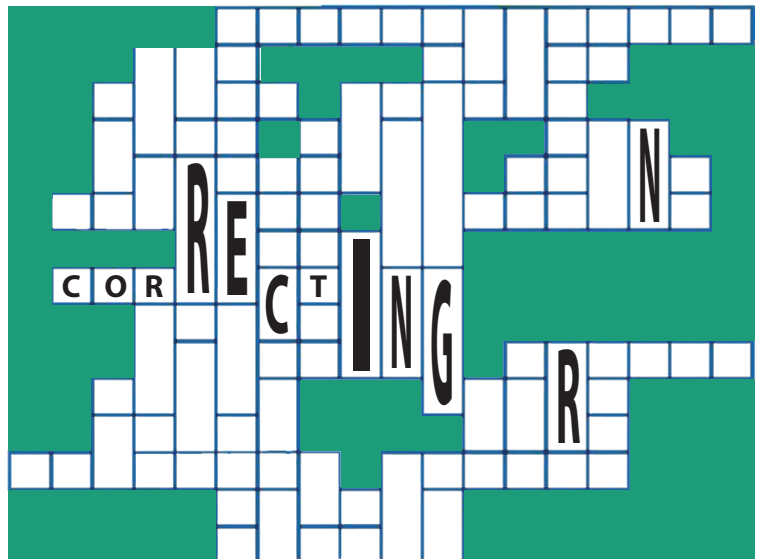
If the good decisions that we make can positively answer one or more of these questions, then we are a work in progress - becoming and doing what God wants.

Let's Act On It

How good are you at thinking before you talk or act? Make a point this week to think about your choices and whether they give God glory. The following word list comes from the Scripture passages in this week's lesson. Fit them into this stretch fill-in puzzle. **All the words go across**, but some letters fit in the same columns in different rows ... so they're stretched.

This puzzle is quite large ... so you may need to finish it at home.

- | | | | |
|----------|----------|----------|-----------------------|
| eat | living | pure | decrees |
| glory | rebuking | stray | Scripture |
| justly | Lord | useful | drink |
| commands | mercy | training | humbly |
| sin | praise | seek | require |
| heart | teaching | young | correcting |
| | | | righteousness |



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LESSON 5

Work In Progress Submitting to Authority

When your mum gives you a job that you don't want to do, like taking out the bins or putting the dishes away, you do it anyway. Why? Because your mum has "authority" over you. She has that authority because she is your mother. Besides obeying your parents, you also have to obey your teachers, ministers, and even your Cadet Counsellor/GEMS Leader. These people have positions of authority. But what if a total stranger told you to take out his rubbish? You probably wouldn't be too willing to do it. A stranger has no authority to tell you what to do.

Once a simple carpenter's Son told people what to do and how to live. Many of them listened. He even commanded evil spirits to come out of people, and they too obeyed Him. That man was Jesus, and if anyone ever spoke with authority, it was Jesus! Let's take a look at Jesus and His authority.

Let's Talk About It

- 1 What does it mean to have authority?
- 2 A school bully and a school principal both claim to have authority. They are probably talking about two different things. What is the difference?
- 3 Read Mark 1:21-34.
We don't know exactly what Jesus looked like. He probably wasn't a big muscular man. Yet He acted with authority. How did He show His authority in verses 21-27?



- 4 Revelation 12:7-9 tells us how the demon inside the man knew who Jesus was. Look up this passage and fill in the missing words.

And there was _____ in _____.
Michael and his angels _____ against the _____.... The great _____ was _____ down — that ancient _____ called the _____, or _____, ... was hurled to the _____, and his _____ with him.

Where had Jesus and the demons met before?

- 5 Did the people who were watching know who Jesus was? (vs. 27) What was their reaction? (vs. 32)
- 6 In what other way did Jesus display His authority that day? (vs. 29-31)
- 7 These are just a small sample of the authority and power of Jesus. Christians all over the world today feel His power. How does having Jesus in your heart give you power at school, at home, or with your friends? How is Jesus' power evident at a Cadets or GEMS meeting?
- 8 Jesus has authority over all of creation. Fill in the name or title of the person who has authority over the person listed. The letters in the shaded column will spell out what we must do.

Patient									
Employee									
Child									
Legal Secretary									
Student									
Netball									
Army Major									
Cricket									

Let's Remember

The people were amazed at his teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority, not as the teachers of the law. Mark 1:22

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LESSON 6

Work In Progress Overcoming Fear



You are walking alone in the bush and you hear a branch snap nearby!



You are baby-sitting your sister and your parents won't be home until much later. You hear a strange noise outside.



You were supposed to revise your times tables for homework. You know you should have done it, especially when the teacher says, "Take out a piece of paper and number it from one through ten."

Fear! It strikes everybody. Jesus wants to tell us something about it.



Let's Talk About It

- 1 Try to remember the last time you were really afraid. How did you overcome this fear? Do adults ever become afraid?
- 2 Read Mark 4:35-41.
The Sea of Galilee is about 20km long and 11 km wide. Located in a valley, it was one of the best fishing lakes around. Jesus had just finished a long day of teaching and needed to get away. Jesus and His disciples took a boat to the other side of the lake. While they were out on the lake, a storm came up. Describe the storm (vs. 37).
- 3 What was Jesus doing while the storm was raging? (vs. 38)
- 4 The disciples seemed to have some good reasons to be afraid. How did they handle their fear?
- 5 How did Jesus show His mastery over nature?
- 6 What did Jesus then say to His disciples? (vs. 40)
- 7 What do we learn about the disciples from vs. 41?

- 8 Fear seems to be part of life, and yet Scripture tells us that fear is unnecessary. Jesus made it clear to the disciples that even though they thought they were in danger, it was unnecessary for them to be afraid.

We can work on overcoming our fears by doing the four things which are written below in code. Fill in the correct letters and learn what you can do to get rid of your fears. (Hint: Every letter in the code is one letter too far in the alphabet).



H F U D M P T F U P H P E



U S V T U H P E



S F T U J O D I S J T U



C F C P M E U P D B M M

P O H P E

Let's Remember

"Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?" Mark 4:40



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LESSON 7

Work In Progress Sharing the Good News



Amy/Luke and Sarah/Thomas were best buddies. They went everywhere together - including GEMS/Cadets. Both of them had accepted Jesus into their lives and were trying to live for Jesus in all they did. Amy/Luke was always going out of her/his way to tell everyone she/he met that she/he was a Christian and that Jesus had changed her/his life.

Sarah/Thomas had no trouble telling people how her/his favorite sporting team was doing and she/he loved talking about the great holiday her/his family took, but she/he just couldn't bring herself/himself to tell people about Jesus. She/he really wished she/he could be more like Amy/Luke. Let's see what Jesus had to say about it in today's lesson.

Let's Talk About It

- 1 Read Mark 4:1-20.
Jesus told the crowd a parable. What is a parable?
- 2 Jesus told a story about a farmer planting seed. As he threw this seed around, it fell on different types of soil. What were the four types of soil?
- 3 Did those listening understand what Jesus was telling them in His parable? Who or what do the parts of this story represent?
 - ◆ Who is the farmer?
 - ◆ What is the seed?
 - ◆ The four different places where the seed lands really stand for different kinds of people. Describe each of these types of people.
- 4 What do you think Jesus was trying to teach us in this parable?
- 5 "Sowing seed" is an important part of the Christian life. How can you witness (share your faith) to your friends? Families? Neighbours?
- 6 Why is it difficult for you to tell others that you love Jesus and have put your faith in Him?
- 7 Fill in the missing words to read God's promise to us in Romans 8:18. (NIV)

I _____ that our _____
_____ are not _____
_____ with the _____
that will be _____ in us.

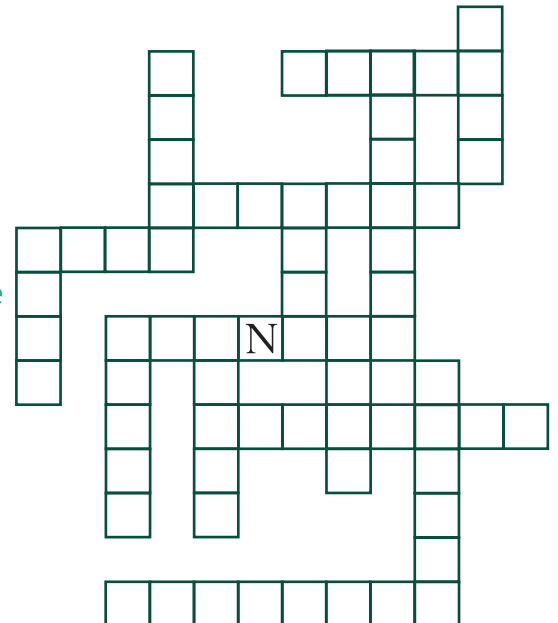
Let's Remember

Are you more like Sarah/Thomas or Amy/Luke? Do you eagerly talk about your sports or computer game victories, and yet hesitate to talk about your relationship with Jesus Christ? Remember that if you don't share the gospel of salvation with your friend or family member, they may never become a Christian. Then, instead of enjoying a relationship with a loving God and eternity with Him in heaven, they may stumble through life and spend their eternity without Him.

I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes. **Romans 1:16**

There are many ways you can tell your friends and family about Jesus. We have listed a few of them below. Fit them into the puzzle.

help
show
tell
share
words
actions
witness
announce
love
talk
model
teach
inform
explain
proclaim



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LESSON 8

Work In Progress Caring For my Physical Growth



Our bodies handle a lot of wear and tear. We run around. We play hard. We work hard. Some of us even seem to sleep hard. If we are going to make progress in life, we should make sure our bodies are fit. Do you think you're fit? Do you think God even cares if you are getting stronger or if you are building endurance? Does God care what you put into your body or does He mainly care about spiritual things? The answer is: God cares about all of you - mind, body and soul.

We are supposed to take care of and develop all of who we are, and that includes our bodies. We probably need to build up some calluses and work on building our strength and endurance. Our bodies need to be in good shape to do God's work. Remember, we are supposed to be God's hands and feet to those we meet. We should be using them to serve God in His wonderful world. So, the answer again is Yes! God does care about our physical bodies and what we do with our bodies each day.

Let's Talk About It

- 1 What types of things can we do to take care of our bodies?
- 2 Why are our bodies important to God? (1 John 3:1, 2b-3)
- 3 Why is it important to know that our bodies are a "temple" for the Holy Spirit? (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)
- 4 What can we physically do to be "God's hands and feet" to the world around us? Why should we do this? Solve the puzzle to see what Romans 12:1 says about this.

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- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -
- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -
- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -

- 5 Each of us has limitations with our bodies and our skills. How can God use us, even with our limitations?

Let's Act On It

Look for ways you can physically serve others this week - sweeping the floor, doing dishes, washing the car, cleaning up someone else's mess, etc. Now don't just look, but do it!



Let's Remember

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight. Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and shun evil. This will bring health to your body and nourishment to your bones. **Proverbs 3:5-8**