

RELIGION IN LIFE PROGRAM



*Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)*

Published for
the Church by
Scouts Canada and
Girl Guides of Canada

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Membership in the Girl Guides of Canada and Scouts Canada is open to all who wish to make the promise, regardless of race, colour or creed. The purpose of the *Guide/Scout* program is to assist children in character development by encouraging them to be responsible citizens of their country. An important part of the program is to assist in the spiritual growth of each child and to encourage them to participate actively in their own religious community. Girl Guides of Canada and Scouts Canada uphold the principle that specific religious instruction is the responsibility of parents and religious authorities.

THE EMBLEM

The Christian Religion in Life emblem consists of a great circle, the symbol of eternity. In the circle are the first and last letters of the Greek Alphabet, *Alpha* and *Omega*, a symbol of God, and a reminder that the worship and service of God form an essential part of life from beginning to end.

REQUIREMENTS

The requirements for the program differ in each faith and denomination and are prepared nationally by the churches or religious bodies to suit their particular needs.

INSTRUCTION

It is the responsibility of the group/section committee and leadership team to arrange for instruction of candidates with the candidate's own spiritual leader or appointee.

PRESENTATION

Presentation of the emblem is made by the candidate's spiritual advisor, and can form an impressive part of a regular *Guide* or *Scout* meeting, a church service, or a special evening for parents/guardians.

STAGES

The Religion in Life program is in four progressive stages, colour-coded and adapted to the age groups concerned.

- Stage 1 — Yellow Border
- Stage 2 — Green Border
- Stage 3 — Blue Border
- Stage 4 — Red Border

Candidates may start at any stage appropriate to their age and capabilities. Only one emblem — the latest stage earned is worn.

WHERE OBTAINABLE

The emblem may be obtained through regular badge channels.

WHERE WORN

Girl Guides of Canada — see *Policy, Organization and Rules*.

Scouts Canada — see *By-Law, Policies and Procedures*.

STAGE 1

It is anticipated that each specific leader/teacher of the Religion-in-Life program will modify these expectations in consideration of individuals' needs and abilities.

Suggested age: 6–8 years

Candidates should:

1. Memorize the Lord's Prayer.
2. Know the divisions of the Bible, Old and New Testaments, and understand why they are distinguished from each other.
3. Know the story of Jesus.
4. Choose and act out a parable.
5. Understand the meaning of prayer/why we pray.
6. Understand why God is special to us.
7. Memorize the titles of the first 12 books of the New Testament, Matthew to Colossians.
8. Through a tour of the Church facility, esp. the sanctuary, understand the importance and use/meaning of the pulpit, the baptistry, the Communion table and the communionware, the Bible, and the choir.
9. Understand some of the work the Minister/Pastor does as well as one other person who works for/in the church. (This could possibly be done through a presentation/interview by the appropriate person(s)).
10. Be able to answer: What can I, as a child, do for the church?
11. In order to demonstrate an understanding of your Promise and how it relates to the Christian life, carry out a project for the church as a group and/or as individuals.
12. Attend a specific church service and discuss the things you saw and did during the service.
13. What does "Jesus loves me" mean?
14. Tell how your behaviour at home, school, church can be a witness to your faith in God.
15. Make up a worship service and hold it in your group.
16. Pray for someone, and the church, each night for one week.
17. Attend church services and Sunday Church School on a regular basis. (Should also be encouraged to continue doing so after the RIL classes cease.)

STAGE 2

It is anticipated that each specific leader/teacher of the Religion-in-Life program will modify these expectations in consideration of individuals' needs and abilities.

Suggested age: 8–10 years

Candidates should:

1. Practice daily Bible readings and prayer.
2. Know the beginnings of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).
3. Know about the local church Board, how people get on it, and what they do.
4. Know about God's continuing creation.
5. Trace how God acted in the lives of 1 Old Testament character, 1 New Testament character, and 1 modern person.
6. Have an understanding of the various elements of a worship service. Also, provide assistance in the preparation of the communion elements, where possible.
7. Know the Disciples' symbol (the chalice) and the meaning of it.
8. List different gifts from God, see I Corinthians 12 and Ephesians 4. Discuss if these are for us alone or to be shared with others.
9. Read and explain the meaning of John 3:16.
10. Using the various elements of prayer, write a prayer to be used in public worship in church.
11. In order to demonstrate an understanding of your Promise and how it relates to the Christian life, carry out a project for the church, the community, or an individual.
12. Have an understanding of 'stewardship' and give regular financial support to the work of the local church through use of offering envelopes, where possible.
13. Know all the books, by title, or the New Testament, Matthew to Revelation.
14. Attend church services and Sunday Church School on a regular basis. (Should also be encouraged to continue doing so after the RIL classes cease.)

STAGE 3

It is anticipated that each specific leader/teacher of the Religion-in-Life program will modify these expectations in consideration of individuals' needs and abilities.

Suggested age: 10–12 years

Candidates should:

1. Own or be able to borrow, for regular use, a Bible.
2. Practice daily Bible readings and prayer.
3. Have a general understanding of the different kinds of literature in the Bible.
4. Read the Beatitudes and discuss their meaning and how they should affect our lives.
5. Read The Ten Commandments and discuss how they should affect our lives.
6. In your group, share your understanding of how your faith has developed so far.
7. Describe some of the mission work done by the Disciples Church, both in Canada and around the world.
8. Consider some of the needs in your church or community. Choose one in which you believe you can contribute. Write a brief report of your experience.

9. Review the history of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Canada.
10. Talk to the church treasurer or chairperson of the world outreach committee and find out how the money taken during offering is used.
11. Take an active part in Sunday church service, i.e., greet people, read the Bible lesson(s), say a prayer, etc.
12. Discuss why Christians read the Bible.
13. Discuss the meaning of baptism and church membership with the Minister/Pastor or an Elder. Give serious consideration, if you have not already, to being baptized and becoming a church member.
14. Attend church services and Sunday Church School on a regular basis. (Should also be encouraged to continue doing so after the RIL classes cease.)

STAGE 4

It is anticipated that each specific leader/teacher of the Religion-in-Life program will modify these expectations in consideration of individuals' needs and abilities.

Suggested age: 13 years and older

Candidates should:

1. Study the Book of Amos and see how God was active in Amos' life, consider how Amos used his understanding of God in his life as a message to the people. Outline how you feel about your life and where it is going.
2. Give evidence of systematic monetary support of the local church.
3. Write a brief statement outlining your own faith and discuss it with your Minister/Pastor. Give serious consideration, if you have not already, to being baptized and becoming a church member.
4. Read a current study paper, book, or biography within the life of the church and discuss the major aspects of it.
5. Tell how your knowledge of the Christian life affects your attitude toward people in need in Canada and around the world.
6. Discuss how worship, Bible readings, and prayer have been helpful to your personal Christian development.
7. Be involved with a church committee, where possible.
8. Plan and participate in a public service of worship.
9. Do six (6) days (not necessarily consecutive) of voluntary service in some church-related activity, e.g., Vacation Bible School, Sunday School, church camp, youth group, etc.
10. Attend church services and Sunday Church School on a regular basis. (Should also be encouraged to continue doing so after the RIL classes cease.)
11. Visit a Christian Church from a very different background (i.e., Orthodox Roman Catholic, Mennonite, Friends, etc.) and attend worship and one other event and have one person there share what their church means to them.



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