

# RELIGION IN LIFE PROGRAM



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The Mennonite Brethren Churches

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## RELIGION IN LIFE PROGRAM

Membership in the Girl Guides of Canada and Scouts Canada is open to all girls and boys who wish to make the promise, regardless of race, colour or creed. The purpose of the *Guide/Scout* program is to assist girls and boys 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 girl and boy, and to encourage them to participate actively in their own religion denomination. Girl Guides of Canada and Scouts Canada uphold the principle that specific religious instruction is the responsibility of parents and religious authorities.

## PURPOSE

The purpose of this program is to provide *Scouts* or *Guides* with an opportunity to explore their faith, to make it a basic part of their personal life, and to share it with others.

## 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 Religion in Life program differ in each faith and denomination and are prepared nationally by the Churches or religious bodies to suit their particular needs.

## INSTRUCTION

The instruction of a candidate desiring to qualify for an emblem is the responsibility of the candidate's own spiritual advisor or his/her appointee.

## PRESENTATION

Presentation of the emblem is made by the candidate's spiritual advisor, and can form an impressive part of a regular church service.

## STAGES

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

Stage 1 — Yellow Border (about 7–8–9)

Stage 2 — Green Border (about 10–11–12)

Stage 3 — Blue Border (about 13–14–15)

Stage 4 — Red Border (about 15+)

Stage 5 — Purple Border (Adults)

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 from provincial offices or through regular badge channels.

## WHERE WORN

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

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

## INTRODUCTION:

The sponsorship and oversight of the program will be the responsibility of the church through the Christian Education Committee. It will encourage regular Christian teaching in the program through the leaders. Leaders will be encouraged to undertake leadership training courses sponsored by the church, Scouts Canada or Girl Guides of Canada whenever opportunities are presented. Each *Scout* or *Guide* shall have his or her own Bible as a basic requirement for any stage of the Religion in Life Program.

## STAGE 1

### Word

1. Be familiar with the Bible
  - (a) Two divisions: Old and New Testament.
  - (b) Contains 66 books.
  - (c) Know the books of the New Testament in sequence.
  - (d) The theme of the Bible.
2. Read:
  - (a) John chapters 1–4; (b) I John chapters 1–5;
  - (c) Matthew chapters 5–7; (d) Jonah chapters 1–4;
  - (e) Psalm 119:1–176.
3. Know by memory:
  - (a) John 1:12 (b) John 3:16 (c) Revelation 3:20.
4. Give content of:
  - (a) Psalm I (b) Psalm 23

### Worship

1. Explain some of the things you feel and say when you worship God.
2. Be regular in attendance at Sunday School and Church.
3. Participate in daily Bible reading and prayer.

### Witness

1. Explain the term "a witness for Christ".
2. Explain how your behaviour at home, school, church and Cubs/Brownies can be a witness for Christ.

## STAGE 2

### Word

1. Read the following books of the Bible:
  - (a) Mark (b) Esther (c) John (d) Joshua

2. Know by memory:
  - (a) Psalm I (b) Isaiah 53:1–10 (c) Exodus 20:1–17 (d) Matthew 5:3–12
3. Give content of: (a) John 3:1–21 (b) Jonah

### Worship

1. Be regular in attendance at Sunday School and Church.
2. Write a prayer using each of the following elements: *Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Petition and Intercession.*
3. Practise daily Bible reading and prayer.

### Witness

1. Perform some service for your church (ushering, clean-up, etc.)
2. Perform some service, alone or with others, to your community.
3. Relate your Promise to the Ten Commandments and show how to apply them in everyday life.
4. Seek to bring others to church, Sunday School or to Christ Himself.

## STAGE 3

### Word

1. Read: (a) Judges (b) Daniel (c) Romans to Colossians
2. Know by memory: (a) Psalm 23 (b) John 1:1–14 (c) I Cor. 13:1–8.
3. Give Content of: (a) Matthew 22:37–40 (b) Genesis 1–3.

### Worship

1. Explain the meaning of baptism and of the Ordinance of the Lord's Supper.
2. Explain the following terms: (a) Lordship of Christ (b) Salvation by faith (c) Priesthood of all believers (d) Anabaptist.
3. Write a short account of the history of the Mennonite Brethren Church.
4. Take notes of at least two sermons and discuss them with your parents or pastor.
5. Practise daily Bible reading and prayer.

### Witness

1. Participate in some service for the church (ushering, clean-up, etc.).
2. Participate in some worthy community project.
3. Prepare a written or oral presentation on what your faith in Jesus Christ as personal Saviour means to you and discuss it with your pastor.
4. Share your faith in Christ with others.

## STAGE 4

**NOTE:** As a prerequisite to Stage 4, Stage 3 must be completed.

### Word

1. Read: (a) Entire New Testament (b) Proverbs (c) Genesis (d) Psalms (e) Isaiah.
2. Know by memory: (a) Psalm 119:9–16 (b) Psalm 119:105–112 (c) Isaiah 40:29–31 (d) Luke 2:1–20 (e) John 20:31 (f) 2 Timothy 3:14–16.
3. Be prepared to give content of: (a) I John I (b) II Thessalonians 4:13–18 (c) Ephesians 6 (d) Romans 8:1–17.

### Worship

1. Discuss with the pastor the distinctives of the Mennonite Brethren Church.
2. Learn about the organization of your local church and the Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches.
3. Develop a service of worship using hymns, music, prayer, testimonies, etc., which are relevant to your age group and participate in its use.
4. Support the Church with systematic giving.
  - (a) Study what the Bible teaches about Stewardship of possessions.
  - (b) Explain the term "tithe".
5. Practise daily Bible reading and prayer.

### Witness

1. Express your public confession of faith in Christ as Saviour through believer's baptism.
2. Give evidence of having demonstrated Christ's love to someone in the community.
3. Write a letter to a missionary.
4. Find out about the mission work of the Mennonite Brethren Church and prepare a brief report.
5. Discuss a moral and a social problem that your community is facing. Indicate what you can do about these problems.

## STAGE 5

All adult members associated with Scouting in the Mennonite Brethren Church will show:

- a progressive knowledge of scripture
- a moral and ethical lifestyle
- a dependence on God
- an active prayer life

Applicants for the Religion in Life Adult emblem will:

- be baptized members of the Mennonite Brethren Church with all attendant requirements implied therein
- where one exists, agree to and sign the Christian Education covenant of their local church
- participate in an interview with the group chaplain and when the group is not sponsored by a Mennonite Brethren Church, the interview will be conducted by the Scouter's own pastor
- complete at least three months service in the church
- as a minimum, complete Scouts Canada's basic training — Woodbadge I
- by example, give evidence to a vibrant, growing relationship with Jesus Christ
- be involved with the local church through attendance at services, business meetings and the life of the fellowship
- attend at least one Provincial or Canadian Conference, when possible, as a full time delegate.

Applicants for the Religion in Life Adult emblem will:

- be familiar with the Religious Policy in Scouts Canada's "Bylaw, Policies and Procedures" and accept the obligations therein
- be familiar with the Mennonite Brethren Confession of Faith, Doctrines and Distinctives and accept the implications.

A Mennonite Brethren, Scouts Canada Adult Leader who qualifies for this recognition may or may not be associated with a Scout group in a Mennonite Brethren Denominational Church. The Leader may be registered with another Denomination or community group. In either case, the qualifying leader will have the home church award the certificate and emblem.

**NOTE:** This recognition is not awarded by Scouts Canada, but only by the candidate's church.

## RESOURCES

*Let's Celebrate* — A book of spiritual ideas for Scouting.

*Role of the Chaplain* — Pamphlet.

Your leader or spiritual advisor will be able to recommend other useful resources.



Girl Guides  
of Canada  
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du Canada

