For more information on earning the religious emblem for your faith, contact the Programs of Religious Activities with Youth (P.R.A.Y.) at www.praypub.org.
A LEATHER IS THE OUTWARD SYMBOL OF AN INNER CHALLENGE YOU CHOOSE TO ACCEPT. YOUR LEATHER CHALLENGE SHOULD AFFECT YOUR LIFE TO SUCH A DEGREE THAT YOU CAN RECOGNIZE A SIGNIFICANT CHANGE WITHIN YOURSELF. YOU WILL KNOW THAT YOU HAVE BEEN HONEST WITH YOURSELF WHEN OTHERS SEE THIS CHANGE.

PERSONAL CHALLENGE

To what personal goal do I want to strive by wearing a Red Leather?

How do I plan to do this? Be as specific as possible.
Verses 7-21 talk about the binding of the covenant. What elements does Abram bring?

- Why these items?

What do we bring to God in the binding of a covenant?

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**Genesis 21:1-3 NIV²**

Now the LORD was gracious to Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did for Sarah what he had promised. Sarah became pregnant and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the very time God had promised him. Abraham gave the name Isaac to the son Sarah bore him.

How old was Sarah at the time of Isaac's birth? (See Genesis 17:17 and 21:5.)

How can you keep your relationship with God vital and growing?

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**THE STORY OF THE LEATHER**

It was many years ago in 1914 when a young disabled boy sat on the sidelines at summer camp. He cheered his friends on, always wearing a smile and sharing all he had to give – his Christ-like ideals and happy way of looking at everything – with everyone.

On the last night of camp, a bandanna was tied around his neck as a humble symbol from the campers to recognize his Christ-like way of living. From this small beginning comes the tradition of campers wearing an outward symbol that represents the desire of its wearer to follow the examples that Jesus set for us all. Later, this little "rag" of cloth was replaced with a colored Leather for a Scout to wear on his hip.

What does the Leather signify? It is an outward symbol of an inner challenge that you choose to accept. It reminds you of the challenge you accept at camp and continue to carry out while you are away from camp. The Leather is a personal and voluntary way of challenging yourself to improve your way of life. Your promise of improvement is between you and God. The responsibility to live up to this challenge is yours. God will see your success in fulfilling this desire to live a better life; your family, friends, and anyone you meet should see it, too.

Now you may share in the experience of coming close to God through dedicating yourself to becoming more like Jesus in your thinking and behavior.

Come and enjoy the chance to learn and grow in your relationship with God.
THE LEATHER

The Leather is an outward symbol of accepting an inner challenge to grow. Its symbolism is Christ-centered, sacred, and personal. The decision to continue the journey rests with you.

Each color has a specific meaning. Linked to the meaning of a particular Leather is your personal challenge for growth.

THE BLUE LEATHER
1. Loyalty to the Scout Oath / Law
2. Loyalty to God
3. Loyalty to country
4. Loyalty to others

LOYALTY
(Loyalty to God, country, others)

THE SILVER LEATHER
1. Decision to follow Jesus
2. Decision to live the Christian way of life
3. Decision to live the Christian disciplines

DECISION
(Christian Decision)

THE BROWN LEATHER
1. Serve God
2. Humility
3. Become more aware of the needs of others

SERVICE
(Service to Others)

THE GOLD LEATHER
1. Understanding others
2. Concern for others

BENEVOLENCE
(Understanding Others)

THE RED LEATHER
1. Sacrifice of time
2. Sacrifice of talent
3. Sacrifice of personal will

SACRIFICE
(Leadership and Humility)

THE PURPLE LEATHER

BENEFIT TO A LIFE OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE
(Noble Life)

THE WHITE LEATHER

DEDICATION TO A LIFE OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE
(Life Service)

Chapter 15

This chapter is important as we think about faith and covenant.

Look at the outline of versus 1-6:
- Vs. 1 – Describes Yahweh’s fundamental promise
- Vs. 2-3 – Display’s Abram’s protest.
- Vs. 4-5 – Shows Yahweh’s response.
- Vs. 6 – Abram’s acceptance.

Is Abram forced into faith?

Are you forced into faith?

Has God moved in your journey? What is your story? What are the “Ah-hah!” moments of live that have shaped how you believe and whose you are?

- What was going to be Abram’s reward?
- What is your reward for being faithful?
In reading the rest of Genesis 12, how does this parallel with our walk of faith?

Is God confined to inside of church walls, or does He move about in our lives?

Is He silent today? Or is He active and involved in the world today? How do you see Him at work in your life or the world around you?

Chapter 13

How does Abram change from chapter 12 to chapter 13?

What are the two imperatives (or commands) in verses 14 and 17?

Now look at verses 15-16 and 17b. What motivational clauses does God say there?

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**THE MEANING OF THE LEATHER**

Your Leather is a piece of the Creation. You couldn't sell your Leather; it isn't worth much money. Your Leather has only the meaning that YOU give it.

**THE LEATHER IS NOT:**

1. A decoration.
2. An award for achievement.
3. A reward.
4. A "pat" on the back.
5. Measuring myself by others.
6. "I AM FIRST."
7. Self-centered.
8. I am good, or being good.
9. Knowing about God, talking about God.
10. Sight (seeing things as they are).
11. A status symbol.

**THE LEATHER IS:**

1. A symbol.
3. A responsibility.
4. A "push" forward.
5. Measuring myself by God.
6. "I AM THIRD."
7. Christ-centered.
8. I want to be better.
9. Knowing God, talking to God.
10. Vision (seeing things as they ought to be).
11. A personal calling to humility.
Acceptance of the Red Leather is an acceptance of sacrifice of time, talent and personal will.

When you accepted your Gold Leather you challenged yourself to better understand and serve others. Do you feel you measured up to your challenge? In what ways was it most difficult?

Use this page to write your reflections of this past year.

What does Abram do when he arrives at each location?

Consider this modern expression of praise about God’s ancient servant Abram:

**The Shepherd and His Bride**  
A song by John Ylvisaker

This is the song of Abraham; a man of faith was he.  
*With Sarah and the Hebrew clan, he sought his destiny.*

A man of faith, a woman of grace. Together side by side.  
*They traveled on to Canaan land, the shepherd and his bride.*

A promise made to Abraham, fulfilled his wildest dreams.  
*But Sarah laughed at Yahweh’s plan. There was no hope it seemed.*

A man of faith, a woman of grace. Together side by side.  
*They traveled on to Canaan land, the shepherd and his bride.*

But soon a child was born to them, and laughter was his name.  
*And then a test for Abraham, his faith would still remain.*

A man of faith, a woman of grace. Together side by side.  
*They traveled on to Canaan land, the shepherd and his bride.*

This is the song of Abraham; a man of faith was he.  
*With Sarah and the Hebrew clan, he sought his destiny.*

A man of faith, a woman of grace. Together side by side.  
*They traveled on to Canaan land, the shepherd and his bride.*

What have you done to offer praise and adoration to God? Where is His altar in your life?

What does God call Abram to do? Why?

Does Abram believe God? Does Abram accept His promise? Does he have any physical evidence that it will come true?

How old is Abram?

How would you define faith using these verses?

How will you react when God calls you to go someplace or do something unfamiliar?

Red Leather Pledge

I believe the best and happiest life is the one spent not for self, but for others. With this for our goal, I pledge our hearty loyalty to our society and to its principles. I will be earnest seekers after truth, I will be friends not only to each other, but to all, And I will do our utmost to advance in true Christian manhood. I will stand everywhere and always for purity and righteousness.

Isaiah 6:6-8 NIV

"Then one of the seraphs [angels] flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. With it he touched my mouth and said, ‘See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for.’ Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ‘Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?’ And I said, ‘Here am I. Send me!’ "

1. In what way do you feel you can give more fully of yourself to others?
In his book *Keeping the Servant Spark*, author Arnold Kuntz writes,

“If you look down on your job, your position, what [Martin] Luther calls ’your station in life,’ and regard it of small importance, you'll usually find you aren't using it to anybody’s advantage but your own, and that, to tell the truth, isn't important. But if you perceive each new day to be a full slice of life to be fashioned after the manner that God has decreed, I don’t think it will seem small or insignificant to you.”

2. **How can you give leadership to others in order to fulfill your “station in life”?**

3. **How can you continue to grow in your role as a leader to others?**

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**A Study of Abraham**

*Genesis 12-23*

Let us begin a journey of servanthood with a study of Abram, whom God later renamed Abraham. He is a model of faith, and God used His promise-making Word to become important in the life of Israel and for us today.

Abraham lived about 4,000 years ago in modern day Iraq, southern Turkey, the Middle East (especially Israel) and Egypt. He is considered the father of the Jewish people and religion, and a spiritual Father to the Christian faith.

Let us begin with this prayer:

*Lord, even as You called Your servant Abram to leave his people, so you call us to leave behind our primary loyalties in order to follow You. We respond to this call, sometimes with faith, sometimes with hesitation. It’s frightening, Lord, to abandon the semblance of security and “go to the land You will show us.” We want to know in advance where the land is and if we will prosper there. But You simply offer Yourself as One worthy of all trust, and issue the invitation, “Come follow Me.” Grant us Your grace that we may obey Your call. Amen.*
I have put My Spirit on My Son
A song by John Ylvisaker
Based on Isaiah 42

I have put my Spirit on my Son; He will bring the world to justice. He will never cry or lift His voice; He will show the world what trust is.

I am your God! No other can share My glorious name. Behold the old has passed away and the world can now begin again.

And a wounded heart he will not break, nor a dying spirit worsen. He will never rest until his love is part of every person.

I am your God! No other can share My glorious name. Behold the old has passed away and the world can now begin again.

I have made a covenant with you; and a promise to the nation. I will open eyes that cannot see, to the prisoner bring salvation.

I am your God! No other can share My glorious name. Behold the old has passed away and the world can now begin again.

7. In order to make the world a better place, and help our fellow man, we must be continual dreamers and visionaries. Dreams of this nature usually depend on a significant sacrifice of time, talent and services before they can become a reality, even if a dream is small. What does the song above tell us about dreams and visions?

The Measure of a Man
Author unknown

Not how did he die, but how did he live?
Not what did he gain, but what did he give?
These are the units to measure the worth of a man as a man, regardless of birth.

Not, what was his church, nor what was his creed?
But had he befriended those really in need?
Was he ever ready, with word of good cheer, to bring back a smile, to banish a tear?

Not what did the sketch in the newspaper say, but how many were sorry when he passed away.

4. What is your response to this poem? What can you change in your life that will make a difference to someone else?
At the end of the movie *The Wizard of Oz*, the Wizard gives the Tin Man a “heart,” which is a ticking red watch in the shape of a heart. Along with the watch, the Wizard presents the Tin Man the following advice with great reverence and affection: “And remember, my sentimental friend, that a heart is not judged by how much you love, but by how much you are loved by others.”

5. Think about the Wizard’s statement and the poem, “The Measure of a Man” that you just read.
   a. What does true sacrifice require you to do?
   b. What lesson is the Wizard trying to give to the Tin Man?
   c. What can you do in your live this session and this coming year to show that you have a pure heart?

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**Psalm 86:8-13 NIV**

8 Among the gods there is none like you, O Lord; no deeds can compare with yours.
9 All the nations you have made will come and worship before you, O Lord; they will bring glory to your name.
10 For you are great and do marvelous deeds; you alone are God.
11 Teach me your way, O LORD, and I will walk in your truth; give me an undivided heart, that I may fear your name.
12 I will praise you, O Lord my God, with all my heart; I will glorify your name forever.
13 For great is your love toward me; you have delivered me from the depths of the grave.

6. How can you recognize if you are accomplishing God’s will?