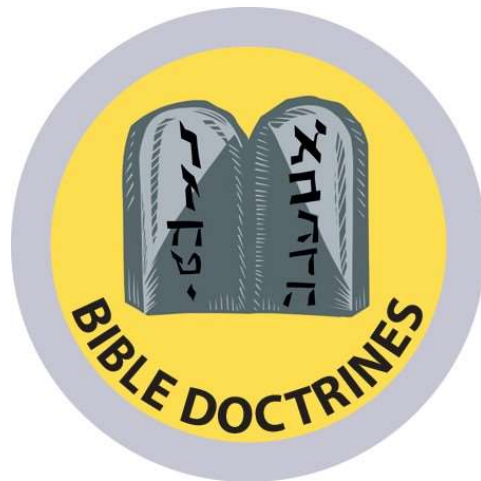


Royal Rangers Skill Merit Series

BIBLE DOCTRINES

Merit Activity Guide



Prepared by the
National Royal Rangers Ministries
Springfield, Missouri

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Using This Guide

This Bible Doctrines Merit Activity Guide provides content for leading an interactive study of Bible doctrines in a small group setting. This information may be used for teaching the official Royal Rangers Bible Doctrines merit or for conducting a fun and engaging Bible doctrines activity with no merit being awarded.

This material is intended for use within a Royal Rangers outpost meeting where separate discipleship or devotional material is used alongside it. Small group discipleship resources for boys are available separately from MyHealthyChurch.com. Such content is not included here.

It is our hope that these materials will be a valuable resource as you provide fun and engaging activities that attract and engage boys while serving as a platform for guiding them into Christlike manhood.

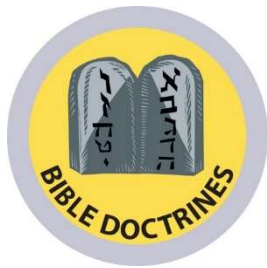
OFFICIAL ROYAL RANGERS MERIT

This Merit Activity Guide may be used to present all the required material for the official Royal Rangers Bible Doctrines merit. Merits are Royal Rangers awards earned upon the completion of a specified list of merit requirements related to a specific topic. Boys earn merits and advancement awards as part of the Royal Rangers advancement system. Information on the Royal Rangers program can be found online at RoyalRangers.com.

The requirements for the completion of this merit can be found in the next section. Merit award patches may be purchased from MyHealthyChurch.com to provide recognition to boys who have completed the requirements for this merit.

MERIT-BASED ACTIVITY

This material may also be used for an activity based on Bible doctrines with no merit awarded. Leaders can determine the scope of the content to be presented as well as any requirements that must be satisfied for the completion of this activity. Certificates may be presented to participants in recognition of their completion of this activity. Blank award certificates may be purchased from MyHealthyChurch.com or you may create your own custom certificates.



*Bible Doctrines Merit
Award Patch
Item #157537
MyHealthyChurch.com*

HOW TO USE THIS MATERIAL

The material in this Merit Activity Guide provides everything you need to present this content in a Royal Rangers meeting, either as a merit or just as a fun activity.

MERIT REQUIREMENTS

This material may be presented as a path to earning the official Royal Rangers Bible Doctrines merit, or just as a fun activity. In order for any boy in your group to earn the merit, the requirements listed here must be met. If no one in your group is pursuing the merit, this list of requirements could be used as a suggested guide for the study of this topic.

LEARNING ABOUT BIBLE DOCTRINES

This section provides the core content for the study of Bible Doctrines, whether done as a merit or as an activity. Detailed content is provided for each of the merit requirements. Leaders are encouraged to read this material thoroughly to prepare for teaching this merit or leading this activity.

BOY'S HANDOUTS

The Boy's Handouts section includes a Bible Doctrines Skill Sheet and a Merit Requirements Checklist. The Skill Sheet is a four-page handout that provides boys with a summary of the content covered in this material. This sheet serves as a valuable reference tool when presenting this material to a group. The Merit Requirements Checklist provides boys with a list of the requirements that must be completed in order to earn the Bible Doctrines merit.

TEACHING THIS MATERIAL

When leading a study of this content with a group of boys, it is recommended that the material be presented in an engaging and interactive way. Lecture sessions where the leader does all the talking should be avoided. Writing should also be avoided. Merit requirements that begin with words like "explain," "describe," or "list" may be completed orally as a group rather than asking boys to write them down. Requirements that begin with "demonstrate" should always be completed physically by the boys rather than in writing.

Every Royal Rangers meeting should be a place of learning and growth. But keeping boys engaged in a fun and interactive environment is an essential part of promoting learning and growth among boys.

LEARNING AT HOME

This Royal Rangers merit may be earned by studying this material and completing the requirements at home, with friends or parents if approved by the boy's outpost leader. Requirements completed at home must be verified by a parent or leader according to the outpost's advancement approval process.

FACILITIES AND RESOURCES NEEDED

The following facilities and materials are recommended when teaching this material.

Facilities:

No special facilities are needed to present this material in a small group setting.

Materials:

- Bible Doctrines Skill Sheets – one for each boy
- Bible Doctrines Merit Requirement Checklist – one for each boy

Merit Requirements



The following merit requirements must be successfully completed for a boy to be awarded the official Royal Rangers Bible Doctrines merit award. Content relating to each requirement may be found in the next section of this guide.

NOTE: For churches not affiliated with the Assemblies of God, complete these requirements using the doctrinal statement of faith defined by your church or denominational leadership.

1. Read the Statement of Fundamental Truths of the Assemblies of God. This material can be found online at AG.org. An abridged version is included on this merit's skill sheet.
2. Identify at least two Scripture references to support each of the Sixteen Fundamental Truths in that statement.
3. Recite from memory the titles of the sixteen points found in the Statement of Fundamental Truths.
4. Explain the four core doctrines of the Assemblies of God and describe how they are represented in the Royal Rangers emblem.
5. Select one of the Sixteen Fundamental Truths and complete one of the following based on that truth:
 - a. Make an oral presentation of at least five minutes in length explaining the scriptural basis for the truth and its significance to you personally.
 - b. Write an essay of at least five hundred words explaining the scriptural basis for the truth and its significance to you personally.
 - c. Write and present a song, poem, or short story illustrating the truth and explain its significance.
 - d. Create a painting, drawing, sculpture, or similar artistic expression to illustrate the truth and explain its significance.
 - e. Interview a credentialed minister of your church or denomination and discuss the relevance of the selected Fundamental Truth to the church today.
6. Explain the role of position papers in guiding the doctrines of the Assemblies of God. Provide examples of position papers currently available.

Learning About Bible Doctrines

This merit introduces the Statement of Fundamental Truths containing the sixteen doctrines of the Assemblies of God. These doctrines represent the tenets of faith that all Assemblies of God churches teach and believe. Four of these doctrines—Salvation, the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, Divine Healing, and the Second Coming of Christ—are considered “core doctrines” which are essential to the church's mission of reaching the world for Christ.

NOTE: For churches not affiliated with the Assemblies of God, complete these requirements using the doctrinal statement of faith defined by your church or denominational leadership.

MERIT REQUIREMENT #1

Read the Statement of Fundamental Truths of the Assemblies of God. This material can be found online at AG.org. An abridged version is included on this merit's skill sheet.

MERIT REQUIREMENT #2

Identify at least two Scripture references to support each of the Sixteen Fundamental Truths in that statement.

MERIT REQUIREMENT #3

Recite from memory the titles of the sixteen points found in the Statement of Fundamental Truths.

STATEMENT OF FUNDAMENTAL TRUTHS

The Assemblies of God first began as an organized movement in 1914 when a group of Pentecostal ministers, missionaries, and other believers came together in Hot Springs, Arkansas, for several days of prayer and seeking God for direction in guiding the Pentecostal Movement. The result of that meeting was the formation of the General Council of the Assemblies of God as a voluntary fellowship of credentialed ministers and churches working together to encourage and promote the evangelization of the world, the worship of God, and the edification of believers, to provide a basis for fellowship among Christians, and to respond to human need with ministries of compassion.¹

But the new Fellowship soon faced disagreements over the specifics of the doctrines member churches and ministers represented. The need was quickly realized for a statement defining the position of the Fellowship on several key issues. The *Statement of Fundamental Truths* was therefore adopted in 1915 “to protect the doctrinal and spiritual identity of the Assemblies of God”.² This statement remained unchanged until 1961 when minor rewording was made to

¹ *Constitution and Bylaws of the General Council of the Assemblies of God*, Constitution Article III. Prerogatives.

² Gary McGee, , Anette Newberry, and Randy Hedlun, *Assemblies of God History, Missions, and Governance*, 8th ed. (Springfield, MO: Global University, 2016), 36.

improve the clarity of the statement.³ The Sixteen Fundamental Truths of this statement are as follows, with a brief description of each, with supporting Scriptures.

MERIT REQUIREMENT #5

Select one of the Sixteen Fundamental Truths and complete one of the following based on that truth. (See merit requirements page for details):

- a. Make an oral presentation
- b. Write a five hundred word essay
- c. Write and present a song, poem, or short story
- d. Create a painting, drawing, sculpture, or similar artistic expression
- e. Interview a credentialed minister

The Sixteen Fundamental Truths of the Assemblies of God

1. The Scriptures Inspired

The Scriptures, both the Old and New Testaments, are verbally inspired of God and are the revelation of God to man, the infallible, authoritative rule of faith and conduct.

- a. 2 Timothy 3:15–17
- b. 1 Thessalonians 2:13
- c. 2 Peter 1:21

2. The One True God

The one true God has revealed Himself as the eternally self-existent "I AM," the Creator of heaven and earth and the Redeemer of mankind. He has further revealed Himself as embodying the principles of relationship and association as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

- a. Deuteronomy 6:4
- b. Isaiah 43:10–11
- c. Matthew 28:19
- d. Luke 3:22

3. The Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ

The Lord Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God. The Scriptures declare: His virgin birth, His sinless life, His miracles, His substitutionary work on the cross, His bodily resurrection from the dead, and His exaltation to the right hand of God.

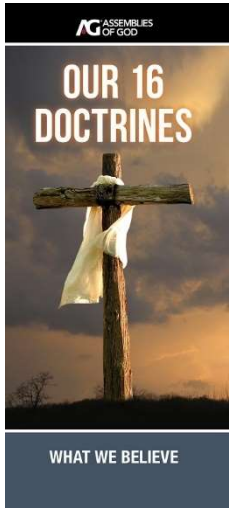
- a. Matthew 1:23
- b. Hebrews 7:26
- c. Acts 2:22
- d. 1 Corinthians 15:3
- e. Matthew 28:6
- f. Acts 1:9, 11

4. The Fall of Man

Man was created good and upright; for God said, "Let us make man in our own image, after our likeness." However, man by voluntary transgression fell and thereby incurred not only physical death but also spiritual death, which is separation from God.

- a. Genesis 1:26–27
- b. Genesis 2:17
- c. Genesis 3:6
- d. Romans 5:12–19

³ William Menzies and Stanley M. Horton, *Bible Doctrines: A Pentecostal Perspective* (Springfield, MO: Logion Press, 2012), 11.



Our 16 Doctrines
a 20-page booklet
describing the sixteen
doctrines of the
Assemblies of God, is
available from
MyHealthyChurch.com
Item #344211

5. The Salvation of Man

Man's only hope of redemption is through the shed blood of Jesus Christ the Son of God.

- a. Luke 24:47
- b. Romans 8:16
- c. Ephesians 4:24
- d. Titus 2:12

6. The Ordinances of the Church

a. Baptism in Water

The ordinance of baptism by immersion is commanded by the Scriptures. All who repent and believe on Christ as Savior and Lord are to be baptized. Thus they declare to the world that they have died with Christ and that they also have been raised with Him to walk in newness of life.

- Matthew 28:19
- Mark 16:16
- Acts 10:47–48
- Romans 6:4

b. Holy Communion

The Lord's Supper, consisting of the elements—bread and the fruit of the vine—is the symbol expressing our sharing the divine nature of our Lord Jesus Christ a memorial of His suffering and death and a prophecy of His second coming; and is enjoined on all believers "till He come!"

- 2 Peter 1:4
- 1 Corinthians 11:26

7. The Baptism in the Holy Spirit

All believers are entitled to and should ardently expect and earnestly seek the promise of the Father, the baptism in the Holy Spirit and fire, according to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ. This was the normal experience of all in the early Christian church. With it comes the endowment of power for life and service, the bestowment of the gifts and their uses in the work of the ministry.

- a. Luke 24:49
- b. Acts 1:4
- c. Acts 1:8
- d. 1 Corinthians 12:1–31

8. The Initial Physical Evidence of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit

The baptism of believers in the Holy Spirit is witnessed by the initial physical sign of speaking with other tongues as the Spirit of God gives them utterance. The speaking in tongues in this instance is the same in essence as the gift of tongues, but different in purpose and use.

- a. Acts 2:4
- b. 1 Corinthians 12:4–10
- c. 1 Corinthians 12:28

9. Sanctification

Sanctification is an act of separation from that which is evil, and of dedication unto God. Scriptures teach a life of “holiness without which no man shall see the Lord.” By the power of the Holy Spirit we are able to obey the command: “Be ye holy, for I am holy” (1 Peter 1:15–16).

- a. Romans 12:1–2
- b. 1 Thessalonians 5:23
- c. Hebrews 13:12

10. The Church and Its Mission

The Church is the body of Christ, the habitation of God through the Spirit, with divine appointments for the fulfillment of her Great Commission. Each believer, born of the Spirit, is an integral part of the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven.

- a. Ephesians 1:22–23
- b. Ephesians 2:22
- c. Hebrews 12:23

11. The Ministry

A divinely called and scripturally ordained ministry has been provided by our Lord for the fourfold purpose of leading the Church in: (1) evangelization of the world, (2) worship of God, (3) building a Body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son, and (4) meeting human need with ministries of love and compassion.

- a. Mark 16:15–20
- b. John 4:23–24
- c. Ephesians 4:11, 16
- d. Psalm 112:9
- e. Galatians 2:10; 6:10
- f. James 1:27

12. Divine Healing

Divine healing is an integral part of the gospel. Deliverance from sickness is provided for in the Atonement and is the privilege of all believers.

- a. Isaiah 53:4–5
- b. Matthew 8:16–17
- c. James 5:14–16

13. The Blessed Hope

The resurrection of those who have fallen asleep in Christ and their translation together with those who are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord is the imminent and blessed hope of the Church.

- a. 1 Thessalonians 4:16–17
- b. Romans 8:23
- c. Titus 2:13
- d. 1 Corinthians 15:51–52

14. The Millennial Reign of Christ

The second coming of Christ includes the rapture of the saints, which is our blessed hope, followed by the visible return of Christ with His saints to reign on earth for one thousand years. The millennial reign will bring the salvation of national Israel and the establishment of universal peace.

- a. Zechariah 14:5
- b. Ezekiel 37:21–22
- c. Isaiah 11:6–9

15. The Final Judgment

There will be a final judgment in which the wicked dead will be raised and judged according to their works. Whosoever is not found written in the Book of Life, together with the devil and his angels, the beast and the false prophet, will be consigned to everlasting punishment in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.

- a. Matthew 25:46
- b. Mark 9:43–48
- c. Revelation 19:20
- d. Revelation 20:11–15
- e. Revelation 21:8

16. The New Heavens and the New Earth

“We, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth wherein dwelleth righteousness.”

- a. 2 Peter 3:13
- b. Revelation 21, 22

MERIT REQUIREMENT #4

Explain the four core doctrines of the Assemblies of God and describe how they are represented in the Royal Rangers emblem.

CORE DOCTRINES

Although all Sixteen Fundamental Truths define the primary doctrines of the Assemblies of God, four of these truths are recognized as “core beliefs” or “core doctrines” due to the key role they play in reaching the lost and building the believer and the church both now and for the future.⁴ These core doctrines are:

SALVATION

The doctrine of salvation forms the core of our Christian faith by proclaiming God’s victory over sin in our lives. This truth results in deliverances, healings,

⁴ <https://ag.org/Beliefs/Our-Core-Doctrines>

and restored lives. Whether a new member or a mature Christian, every believer should have a clear understanding of salvation and the difference this truth makes in our lives and churches.

Key Scriptures that support this doctrine include:

- John 3:16
- Romans 6:23
- Romans 10:9–13

DIVINE HEALING

Wherever Jesus went, He ministered with compassion and healed the sick. Christ's example showed an interconnection with salvation as many believed following their healing. Our Lord continues to heal today and it is vital that the church preach, teach, and practice this biblical truth. Scriptures command believers to pray in faith and trust God for the outcome.

Key Scriptures that support this doctrine include:

- Isaiah 53:4–5
- James 5:14–16
- Luke 9:6

BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

The doctrine of the baptism in the Holy Spirit is our distinctive. This truth explains the passion and power of our witness. Jesus promised His followers that they would receive power from on high so that they would be His witnesses. We believe this truth is just as relevant today as our Fellowship continues to take the gospel message around the globe.

Key Scriptures that support this doctrine include:

- Acts 2:4
- Acts 10:44–46
- 1 Corinthians 12

SECOND COMING OF CHRIST

With the world experiencing natural disasters, economic downturns, and increasing uncertainties on many fronts, the doctrine of Christ's second coming is more relevant than ever. Believers must rest in the certainty of the imminent return of our Lord and share this hope with others.

Key Scriptures that support this doctrine include:

- 1 Thessalonians 4:16–17
- Mark 13:26–27
- 1 Corinthians 15:51–52

A more in-depth discussion of these core doctrines can be found on the Assemblies of God website at AG.org or in the book *Bible Doctrines, Revised Edition* by P. C. Nelson.⁵

These four doctrines are represented by the four red points of the Royal Rangers emblem.



MERIT REQUIREMENT #6

Explain the role of position papers in guiding the doctrines of the Assemblies of God. Provide examples of position papers currently available.

POSITION PAPERS

Although the Statement of Fundamental Truths defines the position of the Assemblies of God on the most essential Bible doctrines, it does not address every possible doctrinal question that may arise among our churches. To address these additional questions, the General Presbytery established the Commission on Doctrinal Purity (the Commission on Doctrine and Practices as of 2019) in 1979 to prepare doctrinal statements that define the position of the Assemblies of God on issues other than those defined by the Statement of Fundamental Truths. These statements have come to be known as “position papers” defining the doctrinal position of the Fellowship on a variety of issues, such as:

- Abstinence from Alcohol
- A Biblical Perspective on Gambling
- Divorce and Remarriage
- Homosexuality, Marriage, and Sexual Identity
- Leadership and Governance in the Local Church
- Ministry to People with Disabilities
- Sanctity of Human Life

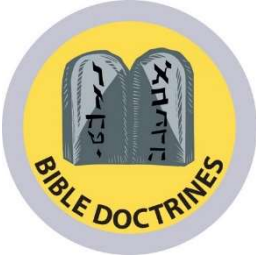
A complete list of current position papers can be found on the Assemblies of God website at AG.org.

⁵ P.C. Nelson, *Bible Doctrines, revised edition* (Springfield, MO: Gospel Publishing House, 2009).

Boy's Handouts

The following pages may be distributed to boys as handouts to use as reference during the completion of this merit.

- Bible Doctrines Merit Requirements Checklist
- Bible Doctrines Skill Sheet



Bible Doctrines

Merit Requirements Checklist

The following merit requirements must be successfully completed for a boy to be awarded the official Royal Rangers Bible Doctrines merit award. Each requirement must be approved by the boy's Group Leader or his designee. Content relating to each requirement may be found in the "Learning About Bible Doctrines" section of this Bible Doctrines Merit Activity Guide.

#	Requirement	Leader's Initials
1.	Read the Statement of Fundamental Truths of the Assemblies of God. This material can be found online at AG.org. An abridged version is included on this merit's skill sheet.	
2.	Identify at least two Scripture references to support each of the Sixteen Fundamental Truths in that statement.	
3.	Recite from memory the titles of the Sixteen Fundamental Truths .	
4.	Explain the four core doctrines of the Assemblies of God and describe how they are represented in the Royal Rangers emblem.	
5.	Select one of the Sixteen Fundamental Truths and complete one of the following based on that truth: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Make an oral presentation of at least five minutes in length explaining the scriptural basis for the truth and its significance to you personally. Write an essay of at least five hundred words explaining the scriptural basis for the truth and its significance to you personally. Write and present a song, poem, or short story illustrating the truth and explain its significance. Create a painting, drawing, sculpture, or similar artistic expression to illustrate the truth and explain its significance. Interview a credentialed minister of your church or denomination and discuss the relevance of the selected Fundamental Truth to the church today. 	
6.	Explain the role of position papers in guiding the doctrines of the Assemblies of God. Provide examples of papers currently available.	
	MERIT COMPLETED - Date:	

The Bible Doctrines merit patch (item #157537) representing the completion of this merit may be purchased from MyHealthyChurch.com and worn on the official Royal Rangers awards vest. Visit RoyalRangers.com/uniforms for details.