

The Armor of God

Bible Story: The Armor of God – Ephesians 6:10-19

Bottom Line: God gives us what we need to stand strong against evil.

Memory Verse: “¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! 2 Corinthians 5:17 NIV

Christ Connection: *Paul told believers to be ready to fight a spiritual battle each and every day. People and powers who are against God will be against us too. But Jesus died and rose from the dead. He had victory over evil. We can fight the battle against evil, knowing Jesus already won the war.*

10 Minutes SOCIAL: SETTING THE TONE OF THE EXPERIENCE

DROP DEAD DICE GAME

Objective: to score as many points as possible. At the start of the game players determine either 1) the target score; or 2) how many rounds they will play.

What you need:

- **5 six-sided dice.** Preferably 5 dice per player.
- **Pen and paper** for keeping score.
- **2 or more enthusiastic players**
- *Optional: throwing cups.* We made our own from cardboard tubes and paper cups.

Rules:

Roll one die to see who goes first. The player with the highest roll starts.

Player one throws all five dice. If his roll contains a 5 or a 2 he scores no points, removes any dice showing a 5 or 2 and re-rolls the remaining dice. If the roll does not contain a 5 or a 2, he adds up the total, records it on the score card and rolls all five dice again. He continues in this way until all the dice are removed from play. Play continues with the next player.

10 Minutes Worship: CELEBRATING WHAT GOD IS DOING

GAME, SONGS, OFFERING AND PRAYER

Protect the Castle

What You Need: foam balls, blocks/boxes/cups (2 sets, one red and one blue), countdown timer

What You Do:

- Separate the room into 2 teams (red and blue). Choose 6 kids to be the armor.
- Place the blocks/boxes/cups in the center of the room down a line.
- This game is like dodgeball but, the goal is to knock down all of the blocks in the middle of the room.
- The armor can block the balls with their hands only.
- Teams will start throwing when the timer starts.
- Team with most of the blocks down wins.

What You Say: Good job teams! Today we will be looking at things that God has given us to help defend us against evil. Before we do that let's all stand up and sing."

15 Minutes LARGE GROUP: COMMUNICATING GOD'S TRUTH IN ENGAGING WAYS

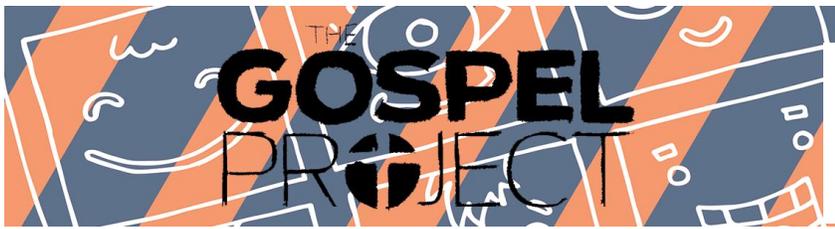
Today's Passage

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹ Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. ¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. ¹³ Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. ¹⁴ Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, ¹⁵ and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷ Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

¹⁸ And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. ¹⁹ Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, **Ephesians 6:10-19**

Context:

The Bible says that God gives us what we need to stand strong against evil. He gives us armor to fight against the plans of the devil. Now, I have a question. If God gives us armor, where is it? Where is the armor for my chest? Where is my belt and helmet and shield? This is not heavy, physical armor that we pick up and put on every day.



Paul used a Roman soldier's armor as a picture of how we should prepare ourselves to fight against evil. We can carry God's truth, righteousness, and peace wherever we go. We hold tight to our faith, salvation, and the Word of God. Also, we are to pray. Pray and ask God for help. When we have this armor of God, we are ready for any battle.

You might be thinking, *I'm not sure how to fight a battle. I'm not very strong, and I am a little afraid.* Well, the good news is that God does not leave us to depend on our own strength. He gives us the Holy Spirit, and we can rely on His power.

Today's Takeaways

- We need to be ready to fight the spiritual battle every day.
- Our world is full of people and powers who are against Jesus and us, too.
- **BL:** God gives us what we need to stand strong against evil.
- Since Jesus rose from the dead, we have victory over evil. We can stand firm in the faith.

Give kids a chance to believe in Jesus for the first time. Remind them that God loves them so much that He sent Jesus to earth to pay for their sins. Lead them to pray as you pray. Pray that believers will submit their lives to the Holy Spirit and follow Jesus.

25 Minutes SMALL GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT

Discussion Questions:

- What do you take with you when you leave the house? Why?
- What kind of things did our Bible story today say we need?
- What kind of battle do we face in our lives?
- The armor of God is not physical armor, so how do we prepare ourselves for battle?

Activity: Shields of faith

What You Need: 10- 12 inch circles out of cardboard or cake round (1 per kid,) markers, other decorative supplies, glue, tape, scissors, Bibles, duct tape

What You Do:

- Give each kid a circle/shield.
- Instruct kids to use markers or crayons to decorate their shields. They can use the extra supplies as well.
- As kids work, discuss what types of battles they might face in their lives.
- Remind them that the battles believers face are not physical battles but spiritual battles against evil and the enemies of God.
- We might use the armor of God to fight off lies about God or about ourselves, to fight temptation to sin, to help us share the gospel with others, to remember the truth about God, and to fight for peace and courage.
- When they finish, help boys and girls stick together two lengths of duct tape, sticky sides in.
- Use two additional strips of tape to attach it to the back of the shield as a handle.

What You Say "God gives us what we need to stand strong against evil. He gives us special armor and He gives us strength. We can pray and we can memorize God's Word so we will be ready for battle. No matter what we face, we know that victory belongs to Jesus. He won the war against sin and death by dying on the cross and rising from the dead. Everyone who trusts in Him will have ultimate victory too."

Activity: Memory Verse Activity

What You Need: "Key Passage Poster", white board, Markers, eraser

What You Do:

- On a dry erase board or chalkboard, write out the key passage.
- Invite a volunteer to read the verse for the class and then erase one word.
- Invite another kid to do the same, erasing a second word.
- Continue in this way until kids have erased all the words and are saying the verse from memory.

What You Say "Great job with that key passage. There is still time to memorize it, so keep working on it. This verse is from 2 Corinthians, one of the books of the Bible written by the apostle Paul. Paul wanted the Corinthians to know that the sin in their lives was against God's will for them and showed that they didn't fully understand the gospel. When we trust in Jesus, we are new creations, changed inside and out. **Who changes us? The Holy Spirit changes us to be like Jesus for God's glory.**"

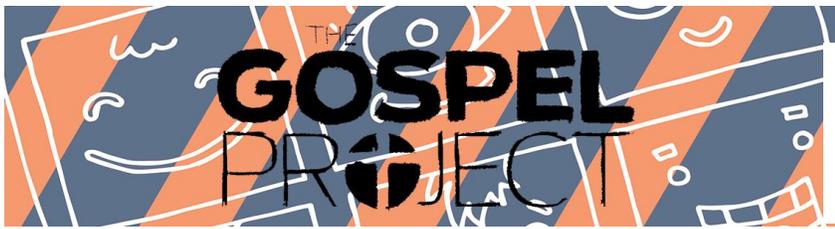
Pray and Dismiss:

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Say:

"Father, thank You for Your goodness, faithfulness, and love. Help us to put on the full armor of God each day. Fill us with Your Spirit and guide us to fight the good fight and expand Your kingdom. Amen."

5 Minutes HOME: PROMPTING ACTION BEYOND THE EXPERIENCE



All Star Kids

June 3, 2018
3rd-5th grade

As adults arrive to pick up, ask kids to share what they learned about how God equips us to stand against evil. Encourage families to pray for each other that they will remember these tools when they need them.