

Stand Firm with One Another

Summer Key Passage: "Put on the full armor of God... so that you can stand strong." Ephesians 6:13
(paraphrased)

Today's Story Point: God gives us help to stand firm.

Today's Bible Passage: "Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you."
1 Corinthians 15:58 (NIV)

BEFORE THE SERVICE:

- Be sure the music is playing as kids arrive.
 - Set out today's Coloring Page and some crayons at the tables.
 - Review the activities to make sure you're prepared for the day.
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LEADER PREP:

Ecclesiastes 4:12 says, "Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken." This verse reminds us that it's difficult for one person to stand alone against the pressures of life. But when two or three stand together, there's strength.

A soldier is rarely sent alone into battle, and the same is true for those engaged with spiritual battles. There is strength in numbers. This journey helps children see that their friends and families can be the ones to help them stand firm as they face the battles ahead of them. Use this lesson to help children turn to those who can help them make wise choices and who can stand with them against the attacks of the enemy.

WELCOME:

- Greet kids at the door, take their temperature, and then add their names to the Check-in Sheet.
- Have a few bins of toys out for kids to play as they enter the room
- Feel free to play music on the TV as kids are playing if you'd like.

| Not Easily Broken EASY PREP | Help to stand firm NO PREP |
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| <p>Gather some kids at a table and demonstrate the following activity (they are probably too young to do this on their own, but they can watch a teacher do it)!</p> <p>Take one craft stick and show it to the kids, telling them that they represent you. Then break one of your craft sticks in half. You should have no problem doing this.</p> <p>SAY • The stick was easily broken when it was alone. This reminds me of a Bible verse. <i>Read Ecclesiastes 4:12: “Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.”</i></p> <p>Next, grab a bunch of craft sticks and bundle them together. Call out kids’ names as you go and say that each stick represents another person in your life. Then try to break them in half all at once. It should be much harder to do when they’re bundled together.</p> <p>SAY • The sticks represent us. Like the sticks, we need to stand firm with our friends and family so that nothing can move us or break us away from our faith. We need to share with others the fact that God will help us. God has given us each other so that no one has to stand alone.</p> | <p>SAY • Friends and family can be the ones to help you stand firm and strong when things are hard. They can help you make good choices.</p> <p>Instruct children to draw friends and family members they can count on when in need of help.</p> |

LARGE GROUP TIME

WORSHIP TIME:

Choose 2-3 songs to play on the TV. Invite the kids to stand and sing, and if you know the motions you can do them with the kids. When worship is done, have them sit back down on their circle dot.

TELL THE STORY:

Tell the children to sit cross-legged and listen quietly as you read today’s story.
Say the Bible is God’s words. Open your Bible and tell the story.

Joab and Abishai

2 Samuel 10:9-14

Joab was a commander in David’s army. David sent Joab and his brother Abishai, to lead an army against the Ammonites. The Ammonites called the Arameans to help them. Joab saw the two armies, the Ammonites and the Arameans on each side of the Israelites. The Israelites were surrounded!!

So Joab took some of the best fighters against the Arameans and his brother Abishai was in charge of other strong soldiers against the Ammonites. The two brothers promised they would help each other in battle if either was in trouble. The brothers were strong because they were going to stand firm together.

Best of all, Joab didn’t forget about God during the battle! He told Abishai to “be strong and fight bravely for our people and the cities of our God.” Joab reminded Abishai that God would do “what was good in his sight.” An amazing thing

happened during the battle! When Joab’s troops started beating the Arameans, the Ammonites fighting Abishai’s troops decided to run away too! God had helped both brothers because they stood firm together!

REPEAT THE MEMORY PASSAGE:

If you would like, create simple hand motions for words of the summer key passage. Invite the children to repeat the motions as you say the key passage.

PRAYER:

SAY • Let’s close our eyes to pray. Why do we pray? *(Answer: To open our hearts to God and talk to Him!)* Remind the children that we can talk to God anytime and anywhere because He cares for us. Invite them to take turns talking to God. Ask the children to close their eyes, fold their hands and bow their heads and then lead your group in prayer.



ACTIVITIES

Choose one or more of the following activities to do with the class for the rest of the service.

| <p>Group Art Project EASY PREP</p> | <p>Closing Prayer NO PREP</p> |
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| <p>Give each child 4-6 large wooden popsicle sticks to color in completely with colored Sharpie markers or regular markers. Encourage them to decorate each stick uniquely. After you have collected all of the sticks, lay them out on a large foam board in a checkerboard manner, experimenting with what you think looks best.</p> <p>When you are satisfied with your design, glue the sticks down in the same pattern. Attach a hanger to the back of the foam board to display in the classroom (optional).</p> | <p>SAY • We’ve learned a lot about the armor of God over the past weeks. Let’s put on the full armor of God so that we can stand our ground.</p> <p><i>As you read each part of the armor, lead children in pantomiming putting on that item.</i></p> <p>We want to buckle the belt of truth around our waists. <i>(Buckle a belt around your waist).</i></p> <p>And we’ll put the breastplate of righteousness in place. <i>(Put on a breastplate)</i></p> <p>We will fit our feet with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. <i>(Put on shoes.)</i></p> <p>And we’ll take up the shield of faith. <i>(Pick up a shield and hold it in front of you.)</i></p> <p>Also, we’ll put on the helmet of salvation. <i>(Put on a helmet.)</i></p> <p>And the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. <i>(Pick up a sword and wave it around.)</i></p> |



SAY • These popsicle sticks remind us what we learned in our earlier activity today, that we are stronger as a group than we are individually. We can use this as a reminder that we stand firm by being there for our family and friends.

Now that we've put on the armor of God, let's pray together. Listen to what I pray. Every time I say "stand firm," stomp your feet as hard as you can and call out, "Stand firm" in a strong voice.

Pray: Here we are, God, dressed in the full armor of God. We're ready to serve you every day. At church we will stand firm (*children stomp and say "stand firm"*). At home we will stand firm (*children stomp and say "stand firm"*). At the playground we will stand firm (*children stomp and say "stand firm"*). As school, in sports, in all our activities, we will stand firm (*children stomp and say "stand firm"*). No matter where we go, we will stand firm (*children stomp and say "stand firm"*). In Jesus' name, amen.

DISMISSAL

- As parents begin to arrive, open the door and have one leader stand just inside the classroom door with the attendance sheet.
- Take the parent's security sticker and call for their child to be brought to the door.
- Check to make sure the security codes match and remove the sticker from the child's back.
- Carefully hand the child to their parent, along with their diaper bags if they brought one, and thank them for coming to Loop Kids today!

Note: If a parent lost their security sticker, send them to the check-in desk for approval. Never allow a child to go to a parent unless they have the security stickers.

LOOP KIDS LEADER CLEANING GUIDELINES

Immediately after each service, please do the following:

- Please spray and wipe down the following areas.
 - Door knobs (both sides), Light switches, Hand Sanitizer Dispenser, Remote Controls,
 - Tables and Chairs (spray and let air dry)
 - Large Stationary items like Play Structures, Train Tables, Baby Swings or Changing Tables (spray and let air dry)
 - Any other surfaces touched during the service.
- Please put all toys that were used in your service in the same bin that you got them from (9am service toys back in 9am service bins, etc). If you noticed a child with a toy in their mouth during the service, please place it in the dirty bin for extra cleaning.