

# What is God's Armor?

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

**Today's Story Point:** God's armor frees us.

**Today's Bible Passage:** "So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light."  
Romans 13:12b (NIV)

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## 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:

*In previous journeys children have considered the power of God, and they also are likely aware of the power of Satan. While it's certain that God has the ultimate authority over the devil, the Bible does caution Christians to avoid evil and its temptations. In Romans 13, Paul guides readers to "put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light." Clearly, protection is needed against the forces of the devil.*

*When a soldier wears armor, the soldier is able to focus less on protecting himself and more on the attack. In the same way, as we put our faith into spiritual armor, we can be freed from worries and fears and instead focus on reaching out to those still in darkness.*

*This journey will help children realize why spiritual armor is needed, and what it means to choose God's armor, the armor of light. As children consider their need to be protected, let them know that as they stand behind the protection of God they can be freed.*

## 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.

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| <b>Coloring Page:</b>  |
| Invite children to color today's page, the soldier of light. Explain that when a soldier wears an armor, he is protected and so he can focus on attacking. |
| <b>SAY</b> • When we wear our spiritual armor, we can be free from worries and fears and focus on reaching out to others in need.                          |

# 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.*

Provide small Bibles for toddlers to handle. Say the Bible is God's Word. Open your Bible and tell the story.

### **God's Army** *2 Kings 6:8-23*

The Aramean army was hiding and waiting to attack the Israelites. But God told a man named Elisha where the Arameans were hiding. Elisha then told the king of Israel where they were to keep the Israelites safe from harm.

When the king of Aram found out that Elisha was telling the Israelites where they were hiding, he decided to capture him and his servant. Elisha told his servant not to be afraid. He prayed that his servant would see that God's army was greater than the Aramean army.

Elisha prayed that the Aramean army couldn't see and God answered his prayer by making the army blind! Elisha then led the Aramean army straight to the king of Israel.

Instead of capturing them, Elisha asked the King of Israel to feed the Arameans a great feast and then let them go home. So that is what the king of Israel did and the Aramean army stopped raiding Israel. The Israelites could now be free from worries and fear of being attacked.

God protected the Israelites, and He protects us too, even when we don't see Him shielding us. God protects us with His armor because he loves us. God's armor frees us from fears and worries.

## REPEAT THE KEY 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.

| <b>Game: Armor of Light</b><br>NO PREP   | <b>Game: Keep away</b><br>NO PREP   |
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| <p>Have children sit in circles of about 10 kids. Give one child in each circle a flashlight. You will play a game similar to Hot potato. As you start the music, kids will pass the flashlight (turned off) around the circle. When the music stops, the child holding the flashlight will have to finish the sentence, "I need God's protection when____." Then the child should turn on the flashlight, point to another child who will say "God's armor of light can protect you and free you". Then the light should be turned off and the game can begin again.</p> <p><b>SAY</b> • The armor of God protects and frees us from fears and worries. It helps us do what God wants us to do.</p> | <p>Have children form a circle with one child in the middle. Children outside the circle must throw the ball through the circle to another outside the circle with the goal being to prevent the one who is it from getting to the ball. This continues until the person who is it (in the middle) catches the ball. The intended recipient who fails to catch the ball replaces the child in the middle.</p> <p><b>SAY</b> • The armor of God protects us and frees us from worries and fears. It helps us do what God wants us to do.</p> |

## 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 parents, 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.