

The Helmet of Salvation

Summer Key Passage:

"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."
Ephesians 6:13 (NIV)

Today's Story Point:

We can trust God to protect our thoughts.

Today's Bible Passage:

"Take the helmet of salvation..."
Ephesians 6:17a (NIV)

LEADER PREP:

In today's culture, those who espouse the ideologies contrary to God's Word strive to capture children's minds with a wide variety of persuasive techniques. Jesus is different. He places a high priority on our freedom. Jesus never coerces anyone to believe. We come to trust him by experiencing the love and freedom he offers. As we submit to his loving leadership, we find freedom from sin and all that Satan and the world would use to enslave our minds.

Our job is not to load kids down with a lot of man-made rules about what they should and shouldn't think. Instead, use this lesson to help children experience Jesus' love and develop a trusting relationship with Him. Then help kids begin to evaluate if their thought light is leading them closer to God or farther from him. Lead them to recognize God's love and wisdom in providing protective armor for our minds - the helmet of salvation.

WELCOME TIME:

- 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.

Coloring Page: David and Goliath NO PREP	Goliath BullsEye Target EASY PREP
<p>Have children color the David and Goliath page. (The "Helmet of Salvation" coloring page is also provided for older kids and/or as additional coloring page.)</p> <p>SAY • Today we will learn about a boy who trusted God and did not allow any negative thoughts to enter his mind. He trusted God to protect his thoughts!</p>	<p>Instruct the children to take turns playing this game to try and land items on the target. You can use the following items to toss on the target: small/aquarium sized stones, gray clay dried out to resemble stones, small bean bags, crumpled pieces of gray construction paper.</p> <p>SAY • In today's story, we will learn that God loved David and protected him from lions and bears, but also from a champion warrior! But that's not all God protected him from, He also protected his thoughts.</p> <p>Today we will learn that God has given followers of Christ a way to protect their minds from thoughts that lead us away from Him. He has given us the Helmet of Salvation.</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.

TRANSITION TO THE STORY:

To gain the attention of all the preschoolers to move them to Bible story time, flip off the lights or clap a simple rhythm for the children to copy. Ask all children to sit down on the rug and remind them to listen quietly during the Bible story.

BIBLE STORY:

The Right Armor: David & Goliath **1 Samuel 17**

SAY • Once there was a boy named David. He was the youngest of eight children and his job was to watch the sheep - **cue children to make sheep noises**. While David cared for the sheep, sometimes a lion or a bear would scare the flock and steal a sheep (**cue to sound effects**) but David would chase the wild animal away and rescue the sheep. If he was attacked, David killed the animal. Through times like this, David learned to trust God's protection.

David's brothers served in King Saul's army. One day David was sent to bring supplies to his brothers at the Israelite camp. The Israelites were at war with the Philistines. The Philistines had a champion warrior named Goliath, who was nine feet tall. **Show kids how tall 9 feet would be in their classroom.** He was HUGE! The

Philistines made fun of the Israelites AND God.

No one on the Israelites side was brave enough to fight Goliath, but David stood up and said: "I will fight Goliath!" (***cue for children to repeat the sentence***). King Saul did not think David could fight Goliath, but David knew God had protected him against the wild animals and He would protect him against Goliath, too. King Saul agreed to let David fight, and to help David, he gave him his armor to wear as protection.

David put on the king's pants... the king's belt... the king's coat of armor... the king's boots... the king's helmet... and carried the king's shield.

ASK: How do you think David felt dressed in the big heavy armor?

Saul's heavy armor just wasn't going to work for David, so David took off the bulky armor and decided to fight Goliath without it, just like he fought the lions and bears. He only took a sling and 5 stones.

ASK:

- What do you think David was thinking as he was getting ready for the fight?
- What thoughts was God protecting him from?

SAY • David only took his wooden staff, a sling and 5 stones to the battle line that day. And when the time came, he swung the sling around and threw one stone at Goliath, which hit Goliath right in the middle of the forehead. Goliath fell to the ground and the Israelites won the battle! It was God who protected the Israelites that day and who won the battle for David!

David didn't need the king's armor because he trusted God to protect him. God's protection was better for David than the king's finest armor. God's armor is best for us too. When we have a relationship with Jesus, God gives us the helmet of salvation. **We know we can trust God to protect our thoughts.**

SUMMER KEY PASSAGE:

Read the key passage aloud. Invite a few volunteers to stand, face the group and say the key passage from memory to their friends. Offer help as needed and praise a child's efforts.

CLOSING PRAYER:

Have children gather around in a circle, facing outwards, wearing their breastplate to protect their hearts. Pray over them the following prayer:

SAY • God protects our hearts one by one, but when we gather together as God's people, he also protects us as a group, the church. Let's each pray one sentence telling God how we feel about trusting Jesus. You might thank God for sending Jesus to make us right with him, or you might ask God for a strong faith like Abram's.

Allow each child to pray. Conclude with a one-sentence prayer asking God to use his armor to protect these children in the coming weeks.



REVIEW ACTIVITY & PRAYER

<p>Create your own Helmet of Salvation EASY PREP</p>	<p>Thoughts Filter EASY PREP</p>
<p>Have each preschooler decorate the “helmet of salvation” provided. Supply items such as stickers, jems, color dots, glitter glue, etc. to decorate the helmet with. Kids can recreate pictures of the story or write words that remind them of God’s power protecting them.</p> <p>SAY • Just like God’s protection for David was better than the king’s finest armor, God’s armor is best for us too. When we have a relationship with Jesus, God gives us the helmet of salvation. We know we can trust God to protect our thoughts.</p>	<p><i>Set supplies on the table and gather children around so they can see. Place the colander in one bowl and fill the other with rice. Place the rocks and markers nearby. Have your Bible opened to Philippians 4:8.</i></p> <p>SAY • We learned that David trusted God to protect him from Goliath and from fearful thoughts when he was getting ready to fight. We can trust God to protect our thoughts, too. Let’s do an activity to see how God’s helmet of salvation can help keep harmful thoughts out of our minds while letting good thoughts through.</p> <p>We will use a colander as the filter. The rice will be thoughts that lead us closer to God, and these rocks will be thoughts that might lead us away from God. Think about what goes into your mind as you watch TV, play video games, surf the Internet or talk with friends.</p> <p>ASK: What things come into our minds through TV, music, the computer, friends or other sources that might lead us away from God?</p> <p>SAY • Everyone has thoughts that can lead us away from God. Maybe you’re angry with a friend and think about ways to get even with them. Or maybe you think about trying to disobey your parents without getting caught. We can trust God to protect our thoughts from these ideas that can lead to trouble.</p> <p>Our minds can be filled with both good and bad thoughts, all mixed together. But when we believe in Jesus and wear the helmet of salvation, we can trust God to protect our thoughts.</p> <p><i>Scoop some rice and rocks into a bowl to show good thoughts and bad thoughts mixed together, then sift the mixture through the colander (be sure to have an empty bowl below it). Only the rice should go through the colander. Show kids how the helmet can help keep harmful thoughts out of our mind while letting good ones through.</i></p> <p>SAY • God offers us forgiveness when our thoughts lead us away from him. He helps us get rid of those thoughts (<i>remove the colander of rocks from children’s view and replace with the bowl of rice</i>)... and helps us turn our thoughts toward good things that will draw us closer to him.</p> <p>ASK: What are things we can think about that would lead us closer to God?</p> <p>SAY • Those are great ideas. The Bible tells us even more good things to think about. <i>Open your Bible to Philippians 4:8 and read the verse.</i> God wants us to think about good things, and He has given us the helmet of salvation to protect our mind and thoughts from things that lead away from Him.</p>

TRANSITION AND DISMISSAL:

Preschoolers may play until their parents come to pick them up. If they start getting restless, organize a group game to help manage the classroom.

CHECKOUT PROCEDURE:

- 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 loudly for the child to come.
- While you wait for the child to come, tell the parents something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the service and distribute the preschool big picture cards for families.
- Before you let the child leave the classroom, look to see that the parent and child security codes match and remove the sticker from the child's shirt as they leave.

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 sticker.

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.