

# The Breastplate of Righteousness

## 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 hearts.

## Today's Bible Passage:

"Stand firm then...with the breastplate of righteousness in place."  
Ephesians 6:14 (NIV)

## LEADER PREP:

*A child's heart is tender. Seemingly small injuries can wound a child's sense of personal value and lovability. Failing at a new task. Disappointment on a parent's face. Harsh words from a friend. Why do such wounds sometimes leave scars? Surely the answer lies partly in the nature of spiritual warfare. Satan will use any opportunity to cause us to question God's love and our worth in his eyes. Satan wants to crush our hearts and kill our faith.*

*But our mighty God will not permit Satan to destroy his children. God protects tender hearts with the breastplate of righteousness. The Bible tells us we do not deserve and cannot earn righteousness, a right standing with God. Yet through faith in Jesus, God declared we are right with him. Use this lesson to help children understand that God's armor holds fast against the messages of Satan. We are loved... we are accepted... because we are God's.*

## 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.

### Color Your Breastplate

NO PREP

Have children color their Breastplate of Righteousness printout. After the lesson they will have more time to color it when they complete the activity.

**SAY** • The past few weeks, we have been learning that God gives us an armor to protect us from sin and help us stand strong. Today we will learn about another part of the armor - the breastplate of righteousness. This is a piece of armor that covers the front of our bodies, our chest, to protect our heart. **We can trust God to protect our hearts.**

## 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:

#### **Abram and Sarai**

*Genesis 15*

Today's story comes from the book of Genesis and is about a couple named Abram and Sarai. They felt sad because they never had any children. Now they were too old to expect to have a baby anymore. God loved Abram and wanted to bless him. One night God spoke to Abram and said "Don't be afraid, Abram. I will protect you and bring good things into your life."

Abram answered God, "Nothing will seem good because I don't have a child to share it with."

Then God made Abram a promise. "You are going to have a son". God took Abram outside and told him to look up at the stars. He said, "See if you can count all the stars in the sky. Your son will grow up to have children, and his children will have children, and their children will have children. Your many descendants will be like the many stars in the sky!"

#### **ASK THE GROUP:**

- How many stars do you think Abram saw?
- Have you counted stars at night? How many stars do you think God created?

**SAY** • Even after God’s promise, Abram and Sarai waited many years for their baby. It seemed impossible that such old people would have a baby after waiting so long but, instead of worrying that God did not love him or might not keep his promise, Abram believed. His trust in God was like a breastplate keeping his heart and faith from being crushed by disappointment. **His faith got stronger. God protected his heart.**

Of course God DID keep his promise. Abram had a son named Isaac. Isaac had children, and Isaac’s children and children - a huge family! In fact, many years later, one of Abram’s descendants was Jesus, the Savior God promised to send to save us from sin.

**ASK THE GROUP:**

- How did trusting God protected Abram’s heart?
- What do you trust God to do for you?

**SAY** • Just as God loved and blessed Abram, God loves and blesses us. We can trust God like Abram did. We don’t have to worry that God doesn’t love us or won’t keep his promises. *We know* he loves us and will *always* keep his promises. Just as God protected Abram’s heart, **we can trust God to protect our hearts.**

**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**

<b>Make your Breastplate</b> PREP NEEDED
Provide each child with their Breastplate page and allow them to finish coloring and decorating it. Make sure they have their name on it. Punch holes to attach twine or ribbon to place around their neck to wear the breastplate. Encourage them to keep this at home with their belt of truth from last week!
<b>SAY</b> • We’ve been learning that God is most powerful and that we don’t have to be afraid. He’s given us armor to protect us from the enemies that try to hurt our faith.

Ephesians 6:14 says to “stand firm then... with the breastplate of righteousness in place.”

Sometimes things happen that cause us to feel hurt, sad or like we're not any good. Our enemy, Satan, tries to use those feelings to make us doubt God's love. But God is most powerful and he designed spiritual armor to protect us. He gives us the breastplate of righteousness to protect our hearts. When we believe in Jesus we can know we are right with God. He DOES love us. We ARE special to him and we can trust God to protect our hearts.

## 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.