

What is God's Armor?

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:

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)

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 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:	Game: Armor of God NO PREP
<p>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.</p> <p>SAY • When we wear our spiritual armor, we can be free from worries and fears and focus on reaching out to others in need.</p>	<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>SAY • The armor of God protects us and frees us from worries and fears. It helps us do what God wants us to do.</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:

Read the bible story below. Use the bolded version of the Bible story for younger preschoolers.

God's army *2 Kings 6:8-23*

The king of Aram was fighting against God's people, the Israelites. He set a trap for the Israelite army so he could capture them. There was a man named Elisha who was a prophet of God, which means he gave people messages from God.

God told Elisha where the Arameans were hiding. Elisha told the king of Israel about the trap so that the Israelites would not go there. The king of Israel checked out what Elisha said and it was true, so he followed Elisha's suggestions and the Israelites stayed safe. This happened many times and the king of Aram could not figure out how the Israelites always had the information they needed to stay safe. Finally, the king of Aram found out that Elisha was the one telling them so he decided to capture him.

The Aramean army was around Elisha and Elisha's servant asked him, "What should we do?" 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. God opened the servant's eyes to see horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha. Elisha also prayed that the Aramean army could not see and God made them blind.

Elisha went to the Aramean blind army, told them they were in the wrong place and led them to the king of Israel. The king of Israel was surprised to see Elisha leading the blind Aramean army right to him. "What should I do?" asked the king to Elisha. Elisha replied: "Feed them a great feast and then let them go home". So that is what the king of Israel did and the 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.

REVIEW QUESTIONS:

Ask the children the following review questions:

- What was surprising about the story?
- Why do you think the Arameans were fed and sent home instead of being killed?
- How do you think Elisha felt when he was surrounded by enemies?
- How do you think Elisha's servant felt?
- Why did Elisha feel differently than his servant?

SAY • God was protecting Elisha the entire time. God let Elisha's servant see that an army of fire - an army of light - protected them. God protects us with his armor because he loves us. **God's armor frees us** from fears and worries.

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.

DEPARTURE PRAYER:

Before you pray show children the motions:

Shield: Place arms over your chest like an X

Protect: Place one arm at an angle over your head as if protecting yourself from a blow

Block: Swiftly move left hand in an angle as if deflecting a punch.

Invite children to do motions at the appropriate time during the prayer

SAY • Dear Lord, please use your love to **Shield** (*motion*) us from things that can hurt us. **Protect** (*motion*) us from our fears and things that can take us away from you. **Block** (*motion*) the efforts of those who want to hurt us, tempt us, or harm us. In Jesus' name, amen.



REVIEW ACTIVITY

Soldier of Light

EASY - NO PREP

Give each child a copy of the soldier drawing and a black crayon. Have the kids trace the soldier several times, pressing firmly with the crayon.

When done, ask them to stare at their picture for about 60 seconds, then tell them to look away at a blank wall or on the back/white side of their sheet. Children will experience an optical illusion that causes their eyes to see a yellow, glowing image of the soldier.

SAY • A glowing soldier has appeared instead of the soldier you had traced. He is wearing the bright armor of light instead of the dark armor of the first soldier. Just like the army Elisha's servant saw, you can now see your soldier has put on the armor of light. This is a fun way for us to begin thinking about the armor of God. **God's armor frees us and protects us.**

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 children 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.