

The Belt of Truth

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 true Word helps us do what's right.

Today's Bible Passage:

"Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist."
Ephesians 6:14a (NIV)

LEADER PREP:

What is truth? Our society says that truth is relative, and there is no absolute truth. This viewpoint makes it hard for children (and adults) to know what to believe and what to hold on to.

We need to assure children that there is a reliable source of truth - the Bible. Because God's Word is true, we can depend on it to guide us. And just as a belt holds up an important part of our wardrobe, the belt of truth holds us up spiritually, keeping our armor in place, and it holds our faith together. With this belt wrapped snugly about us, we can make good choices and remain strong in our faith.

Use this lesson to let children know there is truth, and that depending on God's Word can lead them into making wise choices.

WELCOME TIME

Color your Belt of Truth	Tight together NO PREP
<p>Invite children to start coloring the elements they will attach to their belt.</p> <p>SAY • Today we will be making a belt and learning how the belt of truth holds us up spiritually, keeping our armor in place.</p>	<p>Have children gather in a tight circle. Give one child an end of a rope, then walk around the outside of the circle, wrapping the rope around the entire group. Encourage the children to move closer together as you wind the rope around, including yourself with the group. When you reach its end, give your end of the rope to a child to hold.</p> <p>SAY • Let's pretend that this rope is a belt. Today we will learn about a belt that is mentioned in the Bible. Just like this belt around us, the belt we'll learn about holds things tight together and keeps an important kind of "clothing" from falling off. I hope you learn today that God's true Word helps us do what's right.</p>

LARGE GROUP TIME

WORSHIP:

Choose 3 to 4 songs to sing today. Encourage leaders to participate by doing the hand motions!

SUMMER KEY PASSAGE:

Show the summer key passage and read it aloud it with the kids. Let them know they have the entire summer to learn this verse, and that if it doesn't make sense now, to keep coming back to learn what the armor of God is all about!

BIBLE STORY:

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego: *Daniel 3*

SAY • Today's story is from the book of Daniel. In Daniel 3 is a true story of three young men who were very brave and who loved God so much that they were willing to stand up for God's truth. Their names were Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego.

The king in those days was named Nebuchadnezzar. He was a proud man who thought he was pretty important. He walked around with his chest puffed out. Nebuchadnezzar thought he was so important that he decided to have a gigantic statue made of himself. It was 90 feet high and 9 feet wide, and it was all made of gold. *Compare this to a building or structure in your community that would be equal to this in height so that children can get an idea of the size of the statue.*

Then Nebuchadnezzar gathered everyone to come see this image. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were among those invited, so they joined everyone else in seeing the statue made of Nebuchadnezzar. When everyone was there, an announcement was made that everyone was to bow down to the statue and worship it.



SUMMER MEMORY VERSE

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)

Nebuchadnezzar wanted everyone to worship him as if he were a god! And, if anyone refused, they would be thrown into a fiery furnace and burned to death. He was serious about this!

So the music sounded (*make a bell sound*). Everyone bowed down to the statue - everyone except Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, that is. Those young men just stood there. They knew the truth of God's Word that told them only to worship God. So they refused to bow down.

King Nebuchadnezzar called the three men to stand before him and told them they had to bow down and worship him. He was going to give them one more chance, and this time they'd better obey or it was off to the fire!

ASK: What would you kids have done if you were Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego? Encourage them to think honestly about their answer. Then continue with the story.

SAY • Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego shook their heads at the king. They said they didn't need another chance. They were not going to bow down. They said, "If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to save us from it, and he will rescue us from your hand, O King. But even if He does not, we want you to know, O King, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold that you have set up." Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego knew that God had the power to save them, and even if God chose not to save them, they were still going to obey God and not worship anyone else.

This made the king furious! He was SO mad that he ordered the furnace to be made seven times hotter! The strongest soldier tied up the three young men and threw them into the blazing fire. It was so hot that the flames actually killed the soldiers that threw them in the furnace!

The king looked into the fire expecting to see Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego dead, but instead he saw them walking around the furnace, and there was a fourth man with them - a man who the king believed was an angel! The king called Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego out of the furnace. He looked at their clothes. They weren't burnt! He sniffed at their hair. It didn't even smell like smoke! King Nebuchadnezzar began to praise the true God, and he even gave Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego a promotion!

ASK THE GROUP:

Ask the children the following review questions:

- Why wouldn't Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego bow down and worship the king's statue? What Bible truth does that go against?
- Why do you think they were brave enough to stand up for the truth?
- How did knowing God's true Word help them do what was right?
- Who do you think was the fourth person that appeared in the furnace with them?
- What makes it hard to stand up for the truth?

SAY • Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were wearing the belt of truth. This isn't a literal belt like you use to hold up your pants. Instead, it's like a picture that helps us understand how important truth is in our lives - and how knowing the truth and believing **God's true Word helps us do what's right.**

REVIEW ACTIVITY & PRAYER

Make your Own Belt of Truth PREP NEEDED	Protected by Truth NO PREP
<p>Have children finish coloring the elements of their belt. Help them glue or tape the elements onto the long strip of paper (the belt itself). The word TRUTH should go in the front and the five pointed elements below it (see example provided to know where to put everything). Punch holes at the two ends of the strip and pass ribbon or twine through the holes to tie around the child's waist.</p> <p>Teacher can also attach the "classroom belt" provided to the figure outlined on the wall (each week an element of the Armor will be provided for this purpose).</p> <p>SAY • Today we have learned that God true Word is what helps us to know what is right. When we face problems or lies, we can remember what God's Word says and put on our belt of truth. This will help us to stand strong and not be distracted by lies.</p>	<p>Give each child a "Belt of Truth" handout. Read the verses aloud together and ask kids to think of situations where these verses might help them make good choices.</p> <p>Let children color the picture of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. Have them color in the fourth man next to the three men in the furnace.</p> <p>SAY • We've learned today that God's true Word helps us do what's right. And when we wear the belt of truth, we can stand stronger and not be distracted by lies. As you leave today, remember these verses on this coloring sheet and keep your belt of truth fastened this week.</p> <p>Close in prayer.</p>

CHECKOUT PROCEDURE:

- As parents begin to arrive, open the door and have one leader stand just outside 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 Service Lead to receive a temporary sticker; never allow a child to go to a parent unless they have the security sticker.

LOOP KIDS LEADER CLEANING GUIDELINES

Immediately after each service, clean the classrooms according to the posted cleaning guidelines.