

Fitted Feet

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 be ready to tell others about God's peace.

Today's Bible Passage:



"And with your feet fitted with the readiness
that comes from the gospel of peace."
Ephesians 6:15 (NIV)

LEADER PREP:

Have you ever put on a pair of new shoes and felt that you could run faster and jump higher? Shoes make a difference! A football player would never run onto the playing field wearing sandals, and a basketball player would never job down the court wearing cleats. Instead, athletes wear shoes that support them and make them ready to play the game ahead.

The footwear provided as part of God's armor make us ready as well - ready to share the good news of Jesus Christ with others. When we're ready and motivated, we can have peace in our hearts as well as true peace to pass on. Use this journey to help children spring into action and spread God's peace and love.

WELCOME TIME

Coloring Page NO PREP	Ready to run NO PREP
<p>Have children color the different types of shoes. Ask them if they can tell what activity each pair of shoes is for.</p> <p>SAY • We wear different types of shoes for different situations. In recent weeks, we have been learning about the Armor of God and today we are going to learn about the footwear that goes with the Armor.</p> <p><i>Show the children images of the Soldier's sandals below. Explain that the shoes of Roman soldiers were made of bronze or brass and included a part to cover and protect the shin. The bottoms had spikes so they would help the soldier stand firm - or those sharp spikes could be used as weapons!</i></p>  	<p>Have children form groups of three/four and have each group select one type of shoe from the coloring page they did earlier.</p> <p>SAY • Decide who would wear your pair of shoes and how that shoe would help that person.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What would happen to your person if he/she could not wear these shoes?• If you don't have your shoes on, are you ready for school? For playing a sport? For hiking over rocky ground? Why or why not?• If you were hiking over sharp rocks and discovered you'd forgotten your shoes, would you feel worried or feel peaceful? Why? <p>SAY • Shoes help us to be ready for different activities. They protect our feet from rain and snow, and from hot pavement or sharp objects. Special shoes give us support for specific tasks like running, fishing, swimming or climbing rocks.</p> <p>God also has special shoes for us to wear. These shoes help us be ready to share God's love and peace. We will learn more about that in today's lesson.</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. Remind them that 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!



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)



BIBLE STORY:

Optional: Prepare ahead of time by taping lines on the front wall to create a jail cell.

Paul and Silas in Prison: Acts 16

SAY • The Bible tells us in Acts 16 about two men who were always ready to tell others about God and the peace that comes from knowing God. Today we're going to retell their story together. *Choose children to play the roles of Paul, Silas and the jailer. Have the remaining children form two groups. One will be the crowd, and the other group will be the prisoners. Explain that as you tell the story you'll indicate actions for the kids to do. Be sure to pause and the appropriate times for kids to act their roles. To begin, have everyone sit on the floor.*

SAY • Once there were two men named Paul and Silas. Let's meet them now. *Have Paul and Silas stand and wave.* Paul and Silas loved God very much and traveled around telling people about God. They were always ready to tell about God's love and the peace that comes from knowing God. Let's watch as Paul and Silas walk around our group, smiling, shaking hands, and saying "God loves you!"

Allow a moment for Paul and Silas to do this, then say: Not everyone was happy about the words and actions of Paul and Silas. One day, they healed a girl who was a slave. Her owners were not happy about this. So they grabbed Paul and Silas and brought them to the rulers. A crowd gathered. *Have the crowd gather closely around Paul and Silas. If there are too many kids, just have them reach their arms towards the men and pretend to "gather" around them.*

The crowd murmured with anger. They shook their fists. They accused Paul and Silas of trying to cause trouble. So the rulers said that Paul and Silas should be severely beaten - and that's what happened, but we won't act out that part. And then they were thrown into jail. *Have Paul and Silas sit in the "jail" along the wall that you created. Have the other prisoners join near them.*

The jailer was ordered to guard Paul and Silas carefully, so he put them in an inner cell and locked their feet up in stocks. Then he lay down to sleep. You would think that Paul and Silas would be angry, or afraid, or crying in pain. But instead, they did something very surprising. They started to sing and pray! The other prisoners listened to them. Let's listen to them, too! *Have Paul and Silas hum for a moment.*

Suddenly there was a violent earthquake! Everything started shaking and rumbling and rolling! The doors of the jail flew open and the chains came loose. The jailer woke up. He thought all the prisoners had escaped, so he drew his sword to kill himself, but Paul shouted "Don't harm yourself! We're all here!"

The jailer rushed over to Paul and Silas, fell before them, and asked "What must I do to be saved?" Paul and Silas were ready to tell him exactly what he wanted to know. They told him, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved." And that's just what happened! *Have all your actors take a bow and then return to their seats.*

ASK THE GROUP:

- Why do you think Paul and Silas were able to have such peace and joy even when they were beaten and in prison?
- What were they ready to tell the jailer and anyone else?
- How do you think they got to the point where they were always ready to tell others about God?
- How did peace come into the jailer's life because Paul and Silas were ready?

SAY • Paul and Silas had on their shoes of readiness. They were excited and motivated to tell the jailer about God's peace and love. How about you? Are you wearing the shoes of readiness? Or you ready to tell anyone about God's love and peace with a moment's notice? Let's close in prayer and ask God to help prepare us so we are ready to share about His love and peace with others all the time.

Close in prayer.

REVIEW ACTIVITY & PRAYER

Shoe Shuffle NO PREP	Closing Prayer NO PREP
<p>Get the group to take off their left shoe. Then throw all the shoes in a big pile in the middle of the room. Tell everyone from the group to grab a random shoe from the pile and put it on their spare foot.</p> <p>The aim of the game is to create some sort of line with all the shoes matching up. So I must find the player wearing the other shoe of my original pair and stand next to them, with my left foot flushed to their right foot. And so on, until the whole group is sorted!</p> <p>Note: They might not make a line with this game, nor a circle. It might not make sense, just have fun with it!</p> <p>SAY • When you have your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace, you can tell others about the love of God!</p>	<p>Have children sit around you for the closing prayer time. <i>If you have younger kids, just pray over them during this part.</i></p> <p>SAY • From this part of God's Armor we've learned that we can be ready to tell others about God's peace and love. Let's have a peaceful prayer. Pray silently and ask God to help you have peace in your own life so that you can be ready to tell others about Him.</p> <p><i>After a moment of silent prayer, then whisper: "Now let's get ready to run faster, jump higher, and tell others about God's peace. On the count of three, let's jump and shout "We're Ready!"</i></p> <p><i>Softly count to three, then jump with the kids and shout "We're Ready!"</i></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.