

The Shield of Faith

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:

Faith acts as a shield against evil.

Today's Bible Passage:

"In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith,
with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one."
Ephesians 6:16 (NIV)

LEADER PREP:

It's a fact of life that our faith will be tested. There WILL be battles with the enemy. And the battlefield can just as easily be a child's playground, school bus or cafeteria as it can be any adult forum. The Bible not only acknowledges that we will face battles, but it also provides us with the tools we need in order to win.

One of those tools is the shield of faith. Faith helps us hold up under pressure. It helps us recall times when God has helped us in the past, and gives us assurance that He will be there for us in the future. Faith can bring to mind Bible passages that will encourage and renew our hearts and minds. Faith can ultimately block the arrows Satan throws at us. By remaining firm in our faith we can thwart Satan and emerge victorious. Use this lesson to instill in kids the confidence that THEIR faith can hold firm - that they, too, can be victorious in battle.

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 NO PREP	Where's My Shield? NO PREP
<p>Have children color the "Job" coloring page.</p> <p>SAY • Today we will learn about a man named Job who was faithful to God in spite of some really hard things that happened to him. Through those hard times, his faith acted like a shield against evil.</p>	<p>SAY • Today we are learning about another piece of the armor of God - the shield of faith. What is a shield used for? <i>Let kids answer.</i> A shield is used to protect someone from swords, lances or other weapons when going into battle. The Bible says in Ephesians 16 that our faith can be a shield to protect us from the flaming arrows that Satan throws at us. We're going to do an activity today that will help us see what it's like to have protection from flaming arrows - and what its like to NOT have protection. First, we need some arrows!</p> <p><i>Have children crumple up red, yellow and orange paper in balls as "arrows." Place a masking tape line across the center of the floor and have kids form two groups facing each other across the line. Give all the balls to one group and on your signal have this group begin throwing the "arrows" towards the other group. The kids in the other group should remain standing still and might complain that they have no weapons, but continue to play anyway. After a minute or so, call time and switch roles and let the other group have a chance to throw.</i></p> <p>ASK:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What was it like having the arrows thrown at you? • How did you feel without any way to protect yourself? <p>SAY • When the arrows were being thrown at you in this game, you had no defense. You had no way to protect yourself. That's what it's like in life when Satan throws problems at someone without faith. The person has no way to fight back and they might feel defeated and hopeless.</p> <p>But that's not the case for someone who has faith! The Bible says that faith acts as a shield against evil. With faith, we can defend ourselves. We can trust in God. We can face any problem because we know that God is on our side. That makes me think of a guy in the Bible who really had to hold on to his faith during some very tough times. We'll be learning about this man shortly.</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:

Job's Faith | 1:1-8:10

There was a man named Job who was very rich and had a big family, lots of animals and a big household. Job was honest and loved and served God. One day, Satan told God that the only reason Job was faithful was because he had so much and he had an easy life. So, God told Satan that he could do anything to Job, except lay a hand on him.

Soon after, a messenger came to Job and told him that his donkeys had been taken away and his servants had been killed. After that a second messenger told Job his sheep had been killed and more servants as well. A third messenger came to tell Job that his camels had been taken and the rest of the servants killed. A fourth messenger came to tell Job that all of his children had been killed when his house came crashing down.

After hearing all this, Job stood up and tore off his robe and shaved his head. He fell to the ground and said, "The Lord gives and He takes away, blessed be the name of the Lord." No, Job didn't get angry and shout at God for his misery! Job did not blame God! Satan came back to God and said: "A man will give everything he has to save himself... strike his flesh and bone and I am sure he will speak evil things against you." So, God said Satan could do what he wanted to, except he could not kill Job.

The first thing Satan did was put painful boils all over Job, from his feet to the top of his head. Job used a broken pot to scrape himself! Then, Job's wife starts telling Job to curse God because of what's happening to him. But Job told her that sometimes there's good in life and sometimes there's bad, and Job did not curse God or sin. Job did not blame God, and **his faith acted like a shield against everything that Satan threw at him**. He could have turned away from God and given up, but instead he kept trusting God, even though he grieved and suffered.

Let me tell you one more thing though. This story has a happy ending. God restored Job to even more than he had before! He ended up with a big family and lots of riches. Let's see how much you remember from today's story.

STORY QUESTIONS:

Ask the children the following review questions:

- What kind of man was Job?
- What did Satan say about Job?
- What did Satan plan for Job?
- How do you think Job was able to defend himself from the bad things Satan sent him?
- How can we defend ourselves from the flaming arrows?

SAY • Job kept his faith no matter what. His **faith** was strong and **acted like a shield against evil!**

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

Shield of Faith EASY PREP	Closing Prayer NO PREP
<p>Supply craft items (such as stickers, gems, color dots, glitter glue, markers, etc), and hand out a cardboard shield to each child. Have each preschooler decorate their cardboard shield and then cut and glue the items below to make it look like the example. They can decorate their shield however they want with the items you have. Encourage them to take their shield home as a reminder of today's lesson.</p> <p>SAY • Our Faith can be a shield against Satan. It takes courage and strength to hold on to our faith when times are hard. Remember that God will not test us beyond what we can handle, and that He has given us what we need to stand firm against evil.</p> 	<p>Have children sit around you as you close in prayer. For younger kids you can pray over them.</p> <p>SAY • We can always turn to God in times of trouble. He loves you and cares about you. Silently, tell God about something that is troubling you, then ask God to give you faith to stay strong and trust in 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.