

# Stand Firm with One Another

## 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 gives us help to stand firm

## Today's Bible Passage:

"Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you"  
1 Corinthians 15:58

### LEADER PREP:

*Ecclesiastes 4:12 says, "Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken." This verse reminds us that it's difficult for one person to stand alone against the pressures of life. But when two or three stand together, there's strength.*

*A soldier is rarely sent alone into battle, and the same is true for those engaged with spiritual battles. There is strength in numbers. This journey helps children see that their friends and families can be the ones to help them stand firm as they face the battles ahead of them. Use this lesson to help children turn to those who can help them make wise choices and who can stand with them against the attacks of the enemy.*

# WELCOME TIME

<p><b>Not Easily Broken</b> EASY PREP</p>	<p><b>Blown Away</b> NO PREP</p>
<p>Give each child two craft sticks and instruct them to write their name on each of the sticks. Then ask them to break one of their craft sticks in half. They should have no problem doing this.</p> <p><b>SAY</b> • The stick was easily broken when it was alone. This reminds me of a Bible verse. <i>Read Ecclesiastes 4:12: "Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken."</i></p> <p>Next, have children gather all the intact sticks together. Grab a bunch of them and ask one child to try and break the bundle of craft sticks in half. Give a few kids a turn. Most children will not be able to break this many sticks at once.</p> <p><b>SAY</b> • The sticks represent you. Like the sticks, we need to stand firm with our friends and family so that nothing can move us or break us away from our faith. We need to share with others the fact that God will help us. God has given us each other so that no one has to stand alone.</p>	<p><b>SAY</b> • Today we're going to talk about standing firm. In this activity, we're going to think about how we can stand firm with God every day. This means standing firm against the pressures of our world - against those who tell us it's foolish to have faith in God.</p> <p>First, let's all stand on our tiptoes and walk around the room. When I say "slow," walk slowly. When I say "fast," walk quickly. When I say "stop," stop immediately. Ready? Let's go.</p> <p><i>Walk with the children on your tiptoes around the room. Call out "slow," "fast" or "stop," and have the children follow your directions. After a couple of minutes, have the kids stop.</i></p> <p><b>ASK:</b> Was it easy or hard to keep your balance while walking on your tiptoes? Explain.</p> <p><b>SAY</b> • Now let's all stand on one leg. Follow my directions. Ready? Let's go. <i>Balance on one leg with the children as you call out these directions. Pause for about 10 seconds after each one:</i></p> <p>Look up.                      Look down. Lean forward.              Lean backward. Hop.                              Stand still. Switch legs.                  Switch legs again. Close your eyes.          Stand still. Take a seat on the floor.</p> <p><b>ASK:</b> Was it easy or hard to keep your balance while standing on one leg? Did you think you were going to fall?</p> <p><b>SAY</b> • Now I'd like for you all to stand up and show me how you could stand firm so you'd keep your balance and wouldn't fall over. <i>Have kids stand up and stand firm. Go around the room and <b>gently</b> shake each kid's shoulder to test how firm they're standing. Then have them sit down.</i></p> <p><b>SAY</b> • The Bible talks a lot about how important it is to stand firm. But the Bible isn't talking about standing firm on your feet like we were doing. What do you think the Bible means when it says to stand firm? <i>Let a few kids answer. <b>We have the help of others in our lives (friends and family) and most importantly the help of God to help us stand firm every day.</b></i></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!



## FIRM AGAINST FOES - PRE-LESSON

Give each child a sheet of construction paper. Have them stand in a large circle, facing the center. Then have every other child in the circle turn and face the opposite direction so that one child faces in, the next faces out, the next faces in, and so on. Then have each child take one large step backward. This will leave children facing each other with gaps between them on all sides. Explain that kids are now in battle formation. Teachers stand outside the circle.

**SAY** • We are going to practice standing firm with our family and friends like two brothers from the Bible that we are about to learn about. Their names are Joab and Abishai. While I tell you this story from the Bible, I am going to walk around your battle formation. I'll try to get through your lines as many times as I can. You can only stop me by holding your shields up to cover the spaces where I try to get in. You must help the people all around you. There are a lot of spaces for me to get in, so I want you to work together to keep me out.

*Have the children practice as you pretend to go in once or twice before the story begins. Throughout the story, keep moving around the circle, trying to get inside before children can block you. If you get inside, keep moving around as you read and try to get out. Keep moving in, around, and out as children block.*

### **Joab and Abishai (2 Samuel 10:9-14)**

This account is from 2 Samuel 10:9-14. Joab was a commander in king David's army. David sent Joab and Joab's brother, Abishai, to lead an army against the Ammonites because the Ammonites had mistreated some people from Israel. When the Ammonites realized that the army of Israel was coming, they hired the Arameans to come fight with them. Can you keep all these armies straight?

Joab saw that the Ammonites were on one side of the Israelite army and the Arameans were on the other side of the army. The soldiers in the Israelite army were in trouble because they were surrounded!

Joab divided the army in two and led some of the best fighters against the Arameans. He put his brother, Abishai, in charge of the other soldiers to fight against the Ammonites. Joab told his brother that if the Arameans were too strong, Abishai should bring his soldiers to rescue Joab. Joab promised Abishai that if the Ammonites were too strong, then he would come rescue Abishai. They would help each other in battle.

These brothers were strong because they were going to stand firm together. Best of all, Joab didn't forget about God during the battle! He told Abishai to "be strong and fight bravely for our people and the cities of our God." Joab reminded Abishai that God would do "what was good in his sight."

An amazing thing happened during the battle! When Joab’s troops started beating the Arameans, the Ammonites fighting Abishai’s troops decided to run away too! God had helped both brothers because they stood firm together!

Let’s wave our shields back and forth in the air in a victory celebration! *After kids have done this, ask them to sit down and put away their papers.*

**ASK THE GROUP:**

- What does the saying “I’ve got your back” mean?
- How is that saying things like what happened in our Bible story?
- What can we learn about working together from this Bible story?
- 1st Corinthians 15:58z says, “Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you.” How were Joab and Abishai living out that Bible verse?
- How can we live out that Bible verse?

**SAY** • Just as you stood together against me during our story, Joab and Abishai stood firm together against an opponent too. They were there to help each other when help was needed. We can learn from their example how to stand firm together. Although we aren’t fighting together in a traditional battle, we stand firm by being there for our family and friends. Taking time to help with chores, calling a friend who needs us, or offering a seat to someone on the bus are ways that we strengthen our relationships with our family and friends. Through our families and friends, **God gives us help to stand firm.**

Close in prayer.

**REVIEW ACTIVITY & PRAYER**

Firm Responses NO PREP	Closing Prayer NO PREP
<p><i>Have kids form pairs. Be sure to put younger children with older children. And be sure there’s at least one strong reader in each pair.</i></p> <p><b>SAY</b> • In just a moment, I’ll give you a slip of paper. Read the paper and talk about how you would stand firm in the situation you’ve been given. Then together come up with a short skit to show how you would stand firm in that situation. You’ve got 5 minutes to work.</p> <p><i>Give the children 5 minutes to talk about their situations and come up with a short skit. Wander around the room, giving help and advice to any of the pairs that need it.</i></p> <p><i>After 5 minutes, call time. Have each pair present their skit to one of the other pairs. Then have children return to their seats.</i></p> <p><b>ASK:</b> Was it hard to come up with ways to stand firm for God in the situations you had? Why or why not?</p> <p><i>Have children discuss the following questions with their partners:</i></p>	<p><b>SAY</b> • We’ve learned a lot about the armor of God over the past weeks. Let’s put on the full armor of God so that we can stand our ground.</p> <p><i>As you read each part of the armor, lead children in pantomiming putting on that item.</i></p> <p>We want to buckle the belt of truth around our waists. <i>(Buckle a belt around your waist).</i></p> <p>And we’ll put the breastplate of righteousness in place. <i>(Put on a breastplate)</i></p> <p>We will fit our feet with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. <i>(Put on shoes.)</i></p> <p>And we’ll take up the shield of faith. <i>(Pick up a shield and hold it in front of you.)</i></p> <p>Also, we’ll put on the helmet of salvation. <i>(Put on a helmet.)</i></p> <p>And the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. <i>(Pick up a sword and wave it around.)</i></p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What situations do you face in your life where you need to stand firm for God?</li> <li>• What can you do to stand firm in that situation?</li> </ul> <p><i>After a couple minutes, invite volunteers to share their ideas with the class.</i></p> <p><b>SAY</b> • The Bible tells us that when we put on the full armor of God, we will be prepared to stand firm. Listen to what the Bible says:</p> <p>“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.” (Eph. 6:13)</p> <p>With God’s armor, we’ll be able to stand up against evil! That’s great news!</p>	<p>Now that we’ve put on the armor of God, let’s pray together. Listen to what I pray. Every time I say “stand firm,” stomp your feet as hard as you can and call out, “Stand firm” in a strong voice.</p> <p><b>Pray.:</b> Here we are, God, dressed in the full armor of God. We’re ready to serve you every day. At church we will stand firm (<i>children stomp and say “stand firm”</i>). At home we will stand firm (<i>children stomp and say “stand firm”</i>). At the playground we will stand firm (<i>children stomp and say “stand firm”</i>). As school, in sports, in all our activities, we will stand firm (<i>children stomp and say “stand firm”</i>). No matter where we go, we will stand firm (<i>children stomp and say “stand firm”</i>). In Jesus’ name, amen.</p>
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**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.