

# The Helmet of Salvation

## 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 trust God to protect our thoughts.

## Today's Bible Passage:

"Take the helmet of salvation..."  
Ephesians 6:17a (NIV)

## LEADER PREP:

*In today's culture, those who espouse the ideologies contrary to God's Word strive to capture children's minds with a wide variety of persuasive techniques. Jesus is different. He places a high priority on our freedom. Jesus never coerces anyone to believe. We come to trust him by experiencing the love and freedom he offers. As we submit to his loving leadership, we find freedom from sin and all that Satan and the world would use to enslave our minds.*

*Our job is not to load kids down with a lot of man-made rules about what they should and shouldn't think. Instead, use this lesson to help children experience Jesus' love and develop a trusting relationship with Him. Then help kids begin to evaluate if their thought light is leading them closer to God or farther from him. Lead them to recognize God's love and wisdom in providing protective armor for our minds - the helmet of salvation.*

## WELCOME TIME

<p>Coloring Page: David and Goliath NO PREP</p>	<p>Goliath BullsEye Target EASY PREP</p>
<p>Have children color the David and Goliath page. (The “Helmet of Salvation” coloring page is also provided for older kids and/or as additional coloring page.)</p> <p><b>SAY</b> • Today we will learn about a boy who trusted God and did not allow any negative thoughts to enter his mind. <b>He trusted God to protect his thoughts!</b></p>	<p>Instruct the children to take turns playing this game to try and land items on the target. You can use the following items to toss on the target: small/aquarium sized stones, gray clay dried out to resemble stones, small bean bags, crumpled pieces of gray construction paper.</p> <p><b>SAY</b> • In today’s story, we will learn that God loved David and protected him from lions and bears, but also from a champion warrior! But that’s not all God protected him from, He also protected his thoughts.</p> <p>Today we will learn that God has given followers of Christ a way to protect their minds from thoughts that lead us away from Him. He has given us the Helmet of Salvation.</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!



### BIBLE STORY:

#### **The Right Armor - David and Goliath**

*Tell children you will cue them to provide sound effects during the story. Choose one volunteer to play David and repeat his lines. Show kids your open Bible turned to 1 Samuel 17, and use the following script to tell the story.*

**SAY** • Our Bible story today comes from 1 Samuel 17. Once there was a boy named David. He was the youngest boy in the family and had seven older brothers. David’s job was to watch the sheel. *Cue children to make sheep noises.* While David cared for the sheep, sometimes a lion or bear would scare the flock and steal a sheep. *Cue sound effects.* But David chased the wild animal and rescued the sheep. If the wild animal attacked David, he struck it and killed it. David learned to trust God’s protection.

David’s older brothers served in King Saul’s army. One day, David’s father gave him supplies and sent him to the Israelite camp to check on his brothers. The Israelites were at war with the Philistines. Goliath, the champion Philistine warrior, stood over nine feet tall. Goliath and the Philistines made fun of the Israelites and of God.

How might they have sounded when they made fun of the Israelites? *Cue children for sound effects.* No one wanted to fight Goliath. Each of them pointed at the others and said, “Not me! You go do it!” *Have kids repeat after you.* David saw the Israelites trembling in fear and heard Goliath making fun of God and the Israelite army. David stood up and said “I’ll fight Goliath!” *Allow David to repeat his line.* King Saul thought David could never fight such a mighty warrior. But David knew God had protected him from lions and bears. David knew God would protect him from Goliath, too. So Saul agreed.

To help David get ready to fight, King Saul dressed him in his own armor. *Have David pretend to put on the clothes as you say them.* He wore the king’s pants... the king’s belt... the king’s coat of armor... the king’s boots... the king’s helmet... and carried the king’s shield.

**ASK THE GROUP:**

- How do you think David felt under all that armor?
- How would it feel to go through your whole day dressed in all the king’s big, heavy armor?
- What problems could come from wearing armor that’s not made for you?

**SAY** • Saul’s heavy armor caused problems for David, too! He was not used to the king’s armor. David decided to take it off and fight Goliath without armor - just as he fought the lions and bears. He took only his sling and five smooth stones.

**ASK THE GROUP:**

- How do you think David felt as he got ready to fight Goliath?
- What do you think was going through his mind?
- What thoughts was God protecting him from?

**SAY** • If you’ve heard this story before, tell what happened in the end. *Allow one or more kids to finish the story, correcting any misunderstandings. You can read the rest of the story in 1 Samuel 17:40-50.*

**ASK THE GROUP:**

- Although David fought Goliath without armor, what protection did he have?
- How did David know he could trust God’s protection?
- How can we know we will be protected with the armor of God?

**SAY** • David didn’t need the king’s armor because he trusted God to protect him. God’s protection was better for David than the king’s finest armor. God’s armor is best for us too. When we have a relationship with Jesus, God gives us the helmet of salvation. **We know we can trust God to protect our thoughts.**

Close in prayer.

## REVIEW ACTIVITY & PRAYER

### Create your own Helmet EASY PREP

Have each child decorate the “helmet of salvation” provided. Supply items such as stickers, jems, color dots, glitter glue, etc. to decorate the helmet with. Kids can recreate pictures of the story or write words that remind them of God’s power protecting them.

**SAY** • Just like God’s protection for David was better than the king’s finest armor, God’s armor is best for us too. When we have a relationship with Jesus, God gives us the helmet of salvation. **We know we can trust God to protect our thoughts.**

## 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.