

The Breastplate of Righteousness

Summer Key Passage: "Put on the full armor of God... so that you can stand strong." Ephesians 6:13 (paraphrased)

Today's Story Point: We can trust God to protect our hearts.

Today's Bible Passage: "Stand firm then...with the breastplate of righteousness in place." Ephesians 6:14 (NIV)

BEFORE THE SERVICE:

- Be sure music is playing as kids arrive.
 - Set out today's Coloring Page and some crayons at the tables.
 - Review the activities to make sure you're prepared for the day.
-

LEADER PREP:

A child's heart is tender. Seemingly small injuries can wound a child's sense of personal value and lovability. Failing at a new task. Disappointment on a parent's face. Harsh words from a friend. Why do such wounds sometimes leave scars? Surely the answer lies partly in the nature of spiritual warfare. Satan will use any opportunity to cause us to question God's love and our worth in his eyes. Satan wants to crush our hearts and kill our faith.

But our mighty God will not permit Satan to destroy his children. God protects tender hearts with the breastplate of righteousness. The Bible tells us we do not deserve and cannot earn righteousness, a right standing with God. Yet through faith in Jesus, God declared we are right with him. Use this lesson to help children understand that God's armor holds fast against the messages of Satan. We are loved... we are accepted... because we are God's.

WELCOME:

- 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.

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.

TELL THE STORY:

Tell the children to sit cross-legged and listen quietly as you read today's story.

Say that the Bible is God's words. Open your Bible and tell the story.

SAY • Today's story comes from the book of Genesis and is about a couple named Abram and Sarai.

Abram and Sarai

Genesis 15

Today's story comes from the book of Genesis and is about a couple named Abram and Sarai. They felt sad because they never had any children, and they were too old to have a child.

Then God made Abram a promise. He said, "You are going to have a son". God took Abram outside and told him to look up at the stars. He said: "See if you can count all the stars in the sky. Your son will grow up to have children, and his children will have children, and their children will have children. Your many descendants will be like the many stars in the sky!"

Abram and Sarai waited many years for their baby. But Abram still believed. His trust in God was **like a breastplate keeping his heart and faith alive**. Abram believed that God could do anything, even things that seemed impossible. **His faith got stronger and God protected his heart.**

Of course, God did keep his promise. Abram had a son named Isaac who had children, and his children had children and before you know it, Abram had a huge family!

We can trust God like Abram did. We don't have to worry that God doesn't love us or won't keep his promises. *We know* he loves us and will *always* keep his promises. Just as God protected Abram's heart, **we can trust God to protect our hearts.**

REPEAT THE MEMORY PASSAGE:

If you would like, create simple hand motions for words of the summer key passage. Invite the children to repeat the motions as you say the key passage.

PRAYER:

SAY • Let's close our eyes to pray. Why do we pray?

(Answer: To open our hearts to God and talk to Him!)

Remind the children that we can talk to God anytime and anywhere because He cares for us. Invite them to take turns talking to God. Ask the children to close their eyes, fold their hands and bow their heads and then lead your group in prayer.



ACTIVITIES

Choose one or more of the following activities to do with the class for the rest of the service.

Make your Breastplate PREP NEEDED	Closing Prayer NO PREP
<p>Provide each child with a Breastplate template and allow them to color and/or decorate it. Make sure they have their name on it.</p> <p>Punch holes to attach twine or ribbon to place around their neck to wear the breastplate.</p> <p>SAY • God tells us to “Stand firm with the breastplate of righteousness in place”. No matter what happens in our lives, we can trust that God will protect our hearts.</p>	<p>Have children gather around in a circle, facing outwards, wearing their breastplate to protect their hearts. Pray over them the following prayer:</p> <p>SAY • Thank you God for protecting our hearts so that we can have a strong faith to believe the things you tell us are true. We love you, amen.</p>

DISMISSAL

- 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 for their child to be brought to the door.
- Check to make sure the security codes match and remove the sticker from the child’s back.
- Carefully hand the child to their parent, along with their diaper bags if they brought one, and thank them for coming to Loop Kids today!

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 stickers.

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.