

The Breastplate of Righteousness

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's true Word helps us do what's right.

Today's Bible Passage:

"Stand firm then...with the breastplate of righteousness in place."
Ephesians 6:14 (NIV)

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 TIME

Color Your Breastplate

NO PREP

Have children color their Breastplate of Righteousness printout. After the lesson they will have more time to color it when they complete the activity.

SAY • The past few weeks, we have been learning that God gives us an armor to protect us from sin and help us stand strong. Today we will learn about another part of the armor - the breastplate of righteousness. This is a piece of armor that covers the front of our bodies, our chest, to protect our heart. **We can trust God to protect our hearts.**

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 it doesn't make sense now, to keep coming back to learn what the armor of God is all about!

BIBLE STORY:

Today, while you're sharing the story, have each child draw the story on a sheet of paper. Encourage them to spread out around the room and listen carefully to the story, making a picture that shows the story. Make sure everyone has a sheet of paper and crayons or markers and begin telling the story when everyone is quiet.

Abram and Sarai: Genesis 15

SAY • 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. Now they were too old to expect to have a baby anymore. God loved Abram and wanted to bless him. One night God spoke to Abram and said "Don't be afraid, Abram. I will protect you and bring good things into your life."

Abram answered God, "Nothing will seem good because I don't have a child to share it with."

Then God made Abram a promise. "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!"

ASK THE GROUP:

- How many stars do you think Abram saw?
- Have you counted stars at night? How many stars do you think God created?



SAY • Even after God’s promise, Abram and Sarai waited many years for their baby. It seemed impossible that such old people would have a baby after waiting so long but, instead of worrying that God did not love him or might not keep his promise, Abram believed. His trust in God was like a breastplate keeping his heart and faith from being crushed by disappointment. **His faith got stronger. God protected his heart.**

Of course God DID keep his promise. Abram had a son named Isaac. Isaac had children, and Isaac’s children and children - a huge family! In fact, many years later, one of Abram’s descendants was Jesus, the Savior God promised to send to save us from sin.

ASK THE GROUP:

- How did trusting God protect Abram’s heart?
- What do you trust God to do for you?

SAY • Just as God loved and blessed Abram, God loves and blesses us. 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.**

REVIEW ACTIVITY & PRAYER

Make your Breastplate PREP NEEDED	Closing Prayer NO PREP
<p>Provide each child with their Breastplate page and allow them to finish coloring and decorating it. Make sure they have their name on it. Punch holes to attach twine or ribbon to place around their neck to wear the breastplate. Encourage them to keep this at home with their belt of truth from last week!</p> <p>SAY • We’ve been learning that God is most powerful and that we don’t have to be afraid. He’s given us armor to protect us from the enemies that try to hurt our faith. Ephesians 6:14 says to “stand firm then... with the breastplate of righteousness in place.”</p> <p>Sometimes things happen that cause us to feel hurt, sad or like we’re not any good. Our enemy, Satan, tries to use those feelings to make us doubt God’s love. But God is most powerful and he designed spiritual armor to protect us. He gives us the breastplate of righteousness to protect our hearts. When we believe in Jesus we can know we are right with God. He DOES love us. We ARE special to him and we can trust God to 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 • 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.</p> <p>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.</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.