

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 (NIV)

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:

- 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.

Not Easily Broken EASY PREP	Help to stand firm NO PREP
<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>SAY • 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>SAY • 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>SAY • Friends and family can be the ones to help you stand firm and strong when things are hard. They can help you make good choices.</p> <p>Instruct children to draw friends and family members they can count on when in need of help.</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.

Firm Against Foes EASY PREP
<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>

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

Joab was a commander in David's army. David sent Joab and his brother Abishai, to lead an army against the Ammonites. The Ammonites called the Arameans to help them. Joab saw the two armies, the Ammonites and the Arameans on each side of the Israelites. The Israelites were surrounded!!

So Joab took some of the best fighters against the Arameans and his brother Abishai was in charge of other strong soldiers against the Ammonites. The two brothers promised they would help each other in battle if either was in trouble. The 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 it mean when people say "I got your back?"
- How did that happen in our Bible story?
- What can we learn about working together?
- The Bible says "Stand firm, let nothing move you." Did Joab and Abishai do that?
- How can we obey that Bible verse?
- How can we make our relationship with our friends and family stronger?

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.

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.

SUMMER MEMORY VERSE

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)

CLOSING PRAYER:

SAY • 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.

As you read each part of the armor, lead children in pantomiming putting on that item.

We want to buckle the belt of truth around our waists. *(Buckle a belt around your waist).*

And we'll put the breastplate of righteousness in place. *(Put on a breastplate)*

We will fit our feet with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. *(Put on shoes.)*

And we'll take up the shield of faith. *(Pick up a shield and hold it in front of you.)*

Also, we'll put on the helmet of salvation. *(Put on a helmet.)*

And the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. *(Pick up a sword and wave it around.)*

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.

Pray: 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 *(children stomp and say "stand firm")*. At home we will stand firm *(children stomp and say "stand firm")*. At the playground we will stand firm *(children stomp and say "stand firm")*. At school, in sports, in all our activities, we will stand firm *(children stomp and say "stand firm")*. No matter where we go, we will stand firm *(children stomp and say "stand firm")*. In Jesus' name, amen.

REVIEW ACTIVITY

Group art work

EASY PREP

Give each child 4-6 large wooden popsicle sticks to color in completely with colored Sharpie markers or regular markers. Encourage them to decorate each stick uniquely. After you have collected all of the sticks, lay them out on a large foam board in a checkerboard manner, experimenting with what you think looks best.

When you are satisfied with your design, glue the sticks down in the same pattern. Attach a hanger to the back of the foam board to display in the classroom (optional).

SAY • These popsicle sticks remind us what we learned in our earlier activity today, that we are stronger as a group than we are individually. We can use this as a reminder that we stand firm by being there for our family and friends.



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.