

Spiritual Armor of God

Friday, March 27

The Battle and the Armor of God

Back in New Testament times, Roman soldiers wore special pieces of armor to protect and help them in battle. They wore helmets to protect their head, a breastplate to protect their bodies, and carried swords to fight their enemies.

Did you know that when you become a Christian you are entering a war? God's Word makes it clear that there is a battle going on and we need to be ready! God has given us an invisible spiritual armor to protect ourselves and to attack our enemy, the devil—also called Satan. The devil is God's enemy and he doesn't like those who love God. When you're in God's army, you're on the winning side—but we must put on the full armor of God.

Are YOU wearing your armor? Do you know how to put it on and to use it? This week we'll talk about what it means to fight and how to fight to win.

Ephesians 6:10-13 10 "Finally, let the Lord make you strong. Depend on his mighty power. 11 Put on all of God's armor. Then you can remain strong against the devil's evil plans. 12 Our fight is not against human beings. It is against the rulers, the authorities and the powers of this dark world. It is against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly world. 13 So put on all of God's armor. Evil days will come. But you will be able to stand up to anything. And after you have done everything you can, you will still be standing."

Prayer

"We are so thankful that You are more powerful than our enemy, and that Jesus defeated him. Help us to put on our special armor every day for battle. Amen."

Activity Idea: [Soldier coloring page](#)

Monday, March 30

Belt and Breastplate

How do we put the armor on? Through prayer, faith, and action! We have to ask God to help us put on each part of the armor every day.

Ephesians 6:14 “So remain strong in the faith. Put the belt of truth around your waist. Put the (breastplate) armor of godliness (righteousness) on your chest.”

Let’s look at the 1st piece of armor—the belt of truth. What is the belt of truth? Think of how a tool belt holds all the necessary tools a handyman may need now and in the future. The “belt of truth” is like an actual tool belt, armed with truths about God. What are true things you know about God?

When we put on the belt of truth, we keep everything true we learn about God close to us, like we wear a belt close to our bodies. If we wear a belt loose, it will fall down. When we tell lies, our belt is loosened. But when you learn God’s Word and memorize verses, you are tightening the Belt of Truth.

What is one way you can use the belt of truth at school? *Make the right choices that God would want you to/obey God.* (ask for specific examples)

What does the word *righteousness* (godliness) even mean? It means making the right choice and following what God commands in the Bible. When we say someone is “righteous,” we are saying that he is obedient to God, always making the right choice. Jesus was righteous, but a special righteous, because He NEVER sinned, He never made wrong choices even when He was tempted.

The 2nd piece of armor—the breastplate—was used to protect a soldier's vital organs—particularly the heart. It was made of metal so no arrows or swords could go through it. What really protects our heart is God’s righteousness (thinking and acting the “right” way).

What kinds of things are you tempted to do when you think no one will know? (*ie. pay back evil for evil*)

Speak the truth and do what’s right!

Prayer

“Thank you, God, for giving us the Bible, its truth teaches us to live the right way. Help me to choose You and not sin, and please protect my heart.”

Activity Idea: make the Armor of God snack

Tuesday, March 31

Sandals and Shield

What does “gospel” mean? It means “good news.” The gospel books in the Bible are Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Each one talks about the good news of Jesus. The “gospel of peace” means the good news of peace that Jesus brings. They are the shoes on our feet and the shield of faith.

Ephesians 6:15-16 15 *“Wear on your feet what will prepare you to tell the good news of peace. 16 Also, pick up the shield of faith. With it you can put out all the flaming arrows of the evil one.”*

Soldiers need to be steady on their feet and firmly planted on solid ground. By putting on the 3rd piece of armor—the shoes of peace—we are making Jesus our solid ground and are firmly planted in Him. We will have His peace which makes us immovable as we battle the enemy.

Just as Roman soldiers were sent on a mission, so were the disciples, and we are too! Jesus commanded His disciples to GO and tell everyone about Him. It’s our job too! An important job! The disciples walked in Jesus’ footsteps. They went and carried His news to many people. God tells us to do the same.

Why are we sometimes afraid to tell people about Jesus? If Jesus is all about peace then we have nothing to worry about. We need to put on our shoes—ready with the gospel of peace—and tell our friends and neighbors all about what He has done in our lives! Let’s choose to pray for someone who needs Jesus.

The 4th piece of armor is the shield of faith. What does it mean to have faith? It means to trust in God, even though we can’t see Him. If we have all this armor on, why do we need a shield? Captain America is super strong, but what does he always have with him? His shield! Captain America had to trust in his shield. Did he know his shield would protect him? No! He just picked it up and then trusted that it would keep him safe. We must have faith that God will protect us against Satan and his sin attacks.

Jesus said if we have faith even as small as a mustard seed—a super tiny seed—then we can move mountains! When we face challenges or hard times, we only need the smallest bit of faith in Jesus to take care of us. When we grow in our relationship with Jesus, our faith grows as well. That tiny seed gets a little bigger and the next time something even harder comes, our faith has already grown. Our faith is believing in the person of Jesus Christ, believing He is God’s Son and that He defeated death so we could spend forever with God. It’s true and worth fighting for. We need to grab ahold of our shields of faith and run into battle knowing that God will protect us and defend us.

God loves us all so much and wants to protect us. The more faith we have in Him, the greater things we will see Him do! A big part of our faith is having a relationship with Jesus. If you don’t have a relationship with Jesus or have felt the call to follow Him, then talk to your parents or kid’s pastor about praying to accept Him as your Lord and Savior.

Prayer

“Thank you, Jesus, for your death and for rising again. You give us hope. Help me to share Your Word and to walk in peace and live by faith. Amen.”

Activity Idea: work on the Armor Craft

Wednesday, April 1

Helmet and Sword

Our 5th piece of armor is the helmet of salvation. Why do we wear helmets? God designed our brains to be incredible and they need lots of protection. They don't just need protecting physically, but spiritually too. That's why Paul writes about the "helmet of salvation" as part of our armor.

Ephesians 6:17 "Put on the helmet of salvation. And take the sword of the Holy Spirit. The sword is God's word."

The devil wants us to think we're not good enough to go to Heaven. He wants us to think that we have to do more and more good works to be able to go to Heaven, but that's not true. Jesus came and lived a perfect, sinless life. Then, He died on a cross to be a sacrifice for you and me. He was buried and three days later He rose again. All so that you could get the free gift of grace, the free gift of salvation.

What does salvation mean? It means to be rescued. The devil messes with our minds. He wants us to feel like we have to work for a gift, but you can't work for a free gift. That's why we need our helmets of salvation! For us to remember Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. We've got to keep Satan from getting in our heads and making us think we don't deserve that gift when we know it's a free gift for all.

Since it is a free gift for all, it's important we tell others about what Jesus did for you and me. Part of the deal with a gift is accepting it. If we don't take that gift and follow Jesus, then we don't get to spend forever with Him. Ask your parents or Calvary leaders about following Jesus and accepting that gift of salvation.

The last piece of armor is the Sword of the Spirit, but it's actually a weapon! Armor is all about defense, it's protecting you from something. A sword doesn't just protect, it attacks!

What is the sword of the spirit? The Bible! God's Word! The Bible is the important, true book and it's God's actual words. We need to learn and study it, so we can learn more about Him. The Bible can do it all: teach, correct, and train so we can be ready for everything. This is our "how-to" to be a Christian. It helps us to care for others and teaches us how to love them and tell them about Jesus. Even though it was written thousands of years ago, it is still relevant and can be applied to us today. It will still be helpful 100 years from now—even thousands of years from now.

Why wouldn't we want to learn all about a book that will be around forever! We need to read the Bible, study it, focus on it, in order to live—to live as a follower of God. The sword of the spirit is an important weapon for life. It helps us be fully prepared for the battle we face every day against sin. Even if we are fully dressed in the armor of God, but we forget our sword, we'll be running away from the fight! We have to know God's Word and how to use it.

What are some different ways we can learn about the Bible? (*Reading, Bible study, family devotions.*)

Prayer

"Thank you, Lord, for your protection. Please help me to think like You and read Your Word so I can fight back against the devil when he attacks me with bad thoughts and temptations. Amen."

Activity Idea: work on the Armor Craft

Thursday, April 2

Talking to the Commander

Whenever a soldier would go into battle, it was very important that he knew whom he was fighting, where he would be going, and any other instructions he might need. He would have Sergeants and Commanders giving him orders and his job would be to obey them. When that job was finished, he would return for more orders. No war could be won unless the soldiers were doing this. It's the same in our spiritual battle.

Ephesians 6:18 “*And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.*”

We are told to be “praying always.” How important do you think it is to pray all of the time? Very important! If we don't pray we won't know what our Commander (Jesus) wants us to do. Ask Him what He wants you to do in the battle; take your orders from Him. Carry them out, then report back. Share with Him what's happening in your life. He wants to hear because He loves you very much. He wants to help you and to see you have victory over the battles you are in.

After putting on your armor and receiving orders, you are ready to stand against anything the enemy may bring your way. Remember to put your armor on daily! Spend time in your Bible and in prayer every day so you can grow in your relationship with Jesus—becoming a stronger soldier in God's army.

Prayer

“Lord, thank you for providing us the armor we need for spiritual battle. Please show me what I need to do in battle and to be strong as I fight against the enemy. Amen.”

Activity Idea: [Armor of God Puzzle](#)