

LESSON 67

The Armor of God

EPHESIANS 6:10–20



BIBLE TRUTH

THE GOSPEL THAT SAVES US ALSO ARMS US FOR BATTLE

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. **OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN**

SUPPLIES: one container of play dough; one dull pencil (tip worn and blunt, not sharp)

2. **BIBLE STORY 10 MIN**

SUPPLIES: *The Gospel Story Bible* (story 145)

3. **BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN**

Where Is the Gospel?

SUPPLIES: Bible (ESV preferred); Review “Where Is the Gospel?” to prepare

4. **SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN**

SUPPLIES: snack food and beverage

5. **SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5-10 MIN**

6. **ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS (CHOOSE ONE OR MORE) 20-30 MIN**

Coloring Activity

SUPPLIES: coloring page for NT Lesson 67—one for each child; markers or crayons

Cardboard Armor

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ large piece of cardboard
- ✓ hot glue gun
- ✓ scissors
- ✓ foam balls

Preparation: Create several shields approximately 12 by 18-inches out of cardboard. Also hot glue the ends of two 1-inch by 12-inch strips of cardboard to the back of each shield for arm bands to hold up the shield. Purchase a bunch of foam balls to be used as ammunition. Decorate the shield with a cross to signify the gospel.

Dressed in the Full Armor

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ Felt board armor set (or you can draw the pieces of the armor on a whiteboard.)

7. **CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN**

TOTAL 60-75 MIN

THE LESSON

OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

In today’s lesson the children will learn about the armor of God and how it connects to the gospel.

To prepare for this opening activity bring to class one container of play dough and one dull pencil (tip worn and blunt, not sharp).

Ask the class if anyone knows what armor is and who wears it? (Armor is the protection soldiers and knights wear to keep from getting hurt in battle.) Tell the children that today’s Bible story is about the armor of God, and you want to show them how armor works.

Open up the play dough and place it on a table in front of the children. Tell the class to pretend the ball of dough is a person and your pencil is an arrow shot by an enemy. What is going to happen when it flies through the air and hits the dough? (It will make a mark.)

Pretend the arrow (pencil) is shot through the air. Keep hold of the pencil and have it “land,” pressing it into the ball of dough as it does. Show the mark to the class and say “If this were a soldier he would be hurt.” Then explain what armor is. Reshape the dough, and this time place it inside the can and have the pencil hit the outside of the can. Then reveal that the dough inside is fine.

Finally, use the lid of the dough container, first as a helmet, then as a shield. Repeat the exercise showing how each of these important pieces of armor work.

Then tell the children you are going to read the Bible story which teaches us about the armor of God.

Pray for the remainder of the class time before moving forward with the lesson.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read story 145, “The Armor of God,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

After reading the story, use the following questions to involve the children in a discussion:

- **Why did Paul talk about armor?**
(Armor is for protection, and Paul knew that Christians need the protection of gospel truth to help them every day.)

- **What are the different parts of the armor?**
(the belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, the shoes of readiness to share the gospel message, the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit)

- **What is a breastplate?**
(A breastplate is the armor that covers your chest where your heart is. Review the other components so the children know what they are and generally how they function in battle.)

SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN

While the children are eating the snack, engage them by asking by following questions:

Where Is the Gospel? _____

How does today's Bible story fit into God's greater plan of redemption?

All the armor, from the belt of truth to the sword of the Spirit, is connected to the gospel. Each piece takes us back to the cross. The belt of truth is our security because we know the truth of God's plan to send his Son, Jesus, to die on the cross for our sins. As a result, we receive his righteousness as a breastplate, along with salvation in Christ as our helmet. Faith in Christ and his sacrificial death is our shield. The Spirit that God pours into us at conversion enables us to use the Word of God against the schemes of the enemy.

In the midst of the battle we have the gospel of peace. We are to love our enemies, and there is no greater demonstration of love than to share the gospel of peace. In the midst of our battle against Satan and against our own sinful nature, we always need to be ready to give a reason for our hope.

- Why do you think Paul asks us to pray at all times?
(Prayer is the way we ask God for his help. Since we always need God's help, Paul directs us to pray that way.)
- What does the word supplication mean?
(It means humble prayer.)
- How many times does Paul use the word praying in Ephesians 6:18?
(Read the verse slowly and remind them that supplication means humble prayer. In fact, you can change the verse to read like this: "Praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and humble prayer. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making humble prayers for all the saints.")
- Why would Paul mention prayer so many times?
(He wants us to remember how important it is.)

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5-10 MIN

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult.

ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS. 20-30 MIN

Coloring Activity

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ coloring page for NT Lesson 67—one for each child
- ✓ markers or crayons

While the children are coloring, engage them by asking the following questions:

- Review each piece of the armor and see if the children can point it out. Then explain to them what each piece of armor does for the soldier and how each piece of armor works in the armor of God.

BELT OF TRUTH—When we know God's truth we will not believe lies.

BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS—We have no righteousness of our own. Christ's righteousness is so strong that it cannot be attacked.

SHOES OF READINESS—We are fearful, but God gives us strength to share his Word.

SHIELD OF FAITH—Faith helps us to believe God so that we don't believe the enemy's lies.

HELMET OF SALVATION—Our salvation, believing that Jesus died for our sin so that we could be forgiven, is our only hope. None of us can be saved by our own works.

SWORD OF THE SPIRIT—The sword is the Word of truth, which overcomes the lies of the world and is able to cut into a person's heart to tell them where they are going wrong or encourage them when they are going right.

- What is your favorite part of the armor? Why? (Accept answers, then ask the children to tell you why that is their favorite part.)

Cardboard Armor

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ large piece of cardboard
- ✓ hot glue gun
- ✓ scissors
- ✓ foam balls

To prepare, create several shields approximately 12 by 18 inches out of cardboard. Also hot glue the ends of two 1-inch by 12-inch strips of cardboard to the back of each shield for arm bands to hold up the shield. Purchase a bunch of foam balls to be used as ammunition. Decorate the shield with a cross to signify the gospel.

The purpose of this lesson is to demonstrate how a shield works and give the children an object lesson they will remember.

Ask for volunteers to hold the shields. Have other volunteers toss the balls (the flaming darts of the evil one). Have the children with the shields form a line and explain that they are to use the shields to defend themselves. Have the children with the balls toss them at the shield bearers to try to hit them with the balls. Let this play out until everyone who wants to has the chance to hold a shield or toss the balls. Then ask the children the following questions:

■ How does a shield work to protect you?

(The shield doesn't let things that could hurt you touch you. Objects coming at you hit the shield instead of you.)

- Who uses a shield?
(They will likely say soldiers or knights.)

- What kind of a shield does Paul say we should have?
(the shield of faith)

- What is a shield of faith?
(A shield of faith is a trust in the gospel so that lies cannot discourage you and temptations cannot fool you.)

- How can a shield of faith help us?
(If we place our trust in Jesus, we have the shield of faith. This helps us to remember that God is always working for our good and everything we need can be found in him.)

Dressed in the Full Armor

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ felt board armor set (or you can draw the pieces of the armor on a whiteboard)

Show the children all the pieces of the armor of God, using the whiteboard or felt board. Review each piece and have the children repeat its name after you, along with its connection to the gospel. Ask the children to turn around. Then erase or remove one piece of the armor and see if they can tell you which one is missing.

BELT OF TRUTH—the truth of the gospel

BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS—Christ gave us his righteousness

SHOES READY TO SHARE—the message of the gospel

SHIELD OF FAITH—faith in the work of Christ

HELMET OF SALVATION—Christ is our Savior

SWORD OF THE SPIRIT—God’s Word

CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

Take time at the end of class to thank God for what you learned today. Include parts of your Bible lesson in your prayer as a way for the children to remember today’s lesson.

LESSON 67 - THE ARMOR OF GOD

