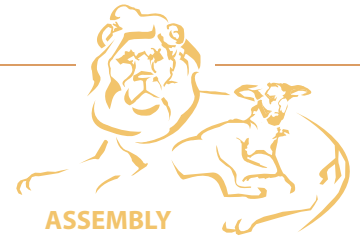


## THE ARMOR OF GOD

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: EPHESIANS 6:10-20



*The following are some ideas for creative ways that you can present this material.*

## LESSON IDEAS

### CARDBOARD ARMOR

#### Supplies

create several shields approximately 12" wide by 18" high out of old cardboard. Also hot glue two 1" x 12" 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 a volunteer to hold each shield that you make and then others to throw the balls (the flaming darts of the evil one.) Set up the volunteers with the shields in a line and explain that they are to use the shields to defend themselves. Have the children with the balls throw them at the shield bearers to try and hit them with the balls. Let this play out a few times to see who is the last shield holder to not be hit or even touched by a ball, 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 to attack 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? (A 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 for our good and everything we need can be found in Him.)

## THE ARMOR OF GOD

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: EPHESIANS 6:10-20

### ADDING A SWORD

#### Supplies

Bring in a toy sword or one made out of cardboard. If anyone can show a real, unsharpened presentation sword, this would really get the children's attention. Extreme care should be taken not to allow children to hold the sword.

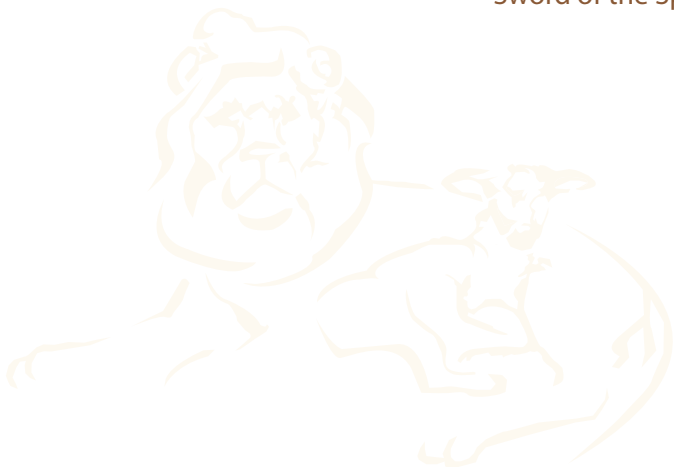
After completing the exercise above with cardboard armor, pull out a sword and ask the following questions.

- How is a sword different than a shield? (A shield is for defending, but a sword can be used to defend and attack.)
- If someone came at you with a sword, what would you do? (Run away.)
- What does God say His sword is? (The Word of God.)
- How can we use the Word of God to protect and defend ourselves? (The enemy would like to lie to us, and God's Word is truth. Remind the children of the story from Matthew 4 where Satan tempts Jesus with lies and He fights back using the sword of the Spirit, God's Word.)

### DRESSED IN THE FULL ARMOR

Make a list of the armor of God using pictures or the felt board. Draw a simple picture of each piece. Review each piece and have the children repeat its name to you and its connection to the Gospel. Ask the children to turn around. Then erase or cover one and see if they can tell you which one is missing. After they have them mastered, see who thinks they can name them all with their Gospel connection.

- 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 – The word of the Gospel



## THE ARMOR OF GOD

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### WHERE IS the Gospel?

*Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the Gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption.*

Children especially can love the theme of the armor with swords and shields. It is important to understand that the overall theme of the armor is the Gospel itself. The belt of truth, for instance refers to Gospel truth: there is only one path by which men are saved.

The righteousness of the breastplate is not made of our works, but the righteousness Christ gave to us. The shoes carry the message of the Gospel to others and our shield of faith is faith in Christ to save us. The helmet is a helmet of salvation in Christ's finished work. The sword of the Spirit is the Word of God that takes us back to where we began with the belt of truth. The message of the armor is our need to be fully immersed in God's Word every day.

