

THE ARMOR OF GOD

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: EPHESIANS 6:10-20



The STORY

Read about the armor of God in Ephesians 6:10-20. (Please feel the freedom to explain difficult words for the children by adding a second simpler word that is easier to understand. You might say sinful talk next to corrupting talk for example.)

Please note: *The discussion questions in the following sections are written to serve as a guide in teaching our youngest children. Three to six year olds are not going to be able to answer these questions like their older brothers and sisters. Please refer to the God's Story Preschool Curriculum Outline for additional ideas.*

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 that they know what they are and generally how they function in battle.)

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CRAFT QUESTIONS

Coloring sheets have been provided that exemplify today's lesson: a picture of the various components of the armor. Engage the children by asking:

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

Review with them 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 and it would not protect us. Christ's righteousness is very strong and 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.

SNACK QUESTIONS

While the children are eating the snack, engage the children by asking:

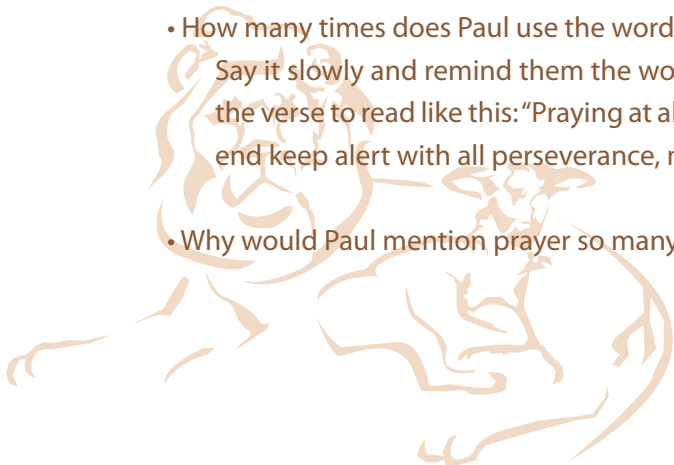
- Why do you think Paul asks us to pray at all times? (Prayer is the way we ask God for his help. Since we always need God's help, Paul directs us to pray that way.)

- What does the word supplication mean? (It is just another word for praying.)

- How many times does Paul use the word praying in verse 18?

Say it slowly and remind them the word supplication is the same as 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? (Because it is so important.)



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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.

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY

BE A DOER OF THE WORD

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 worker.

