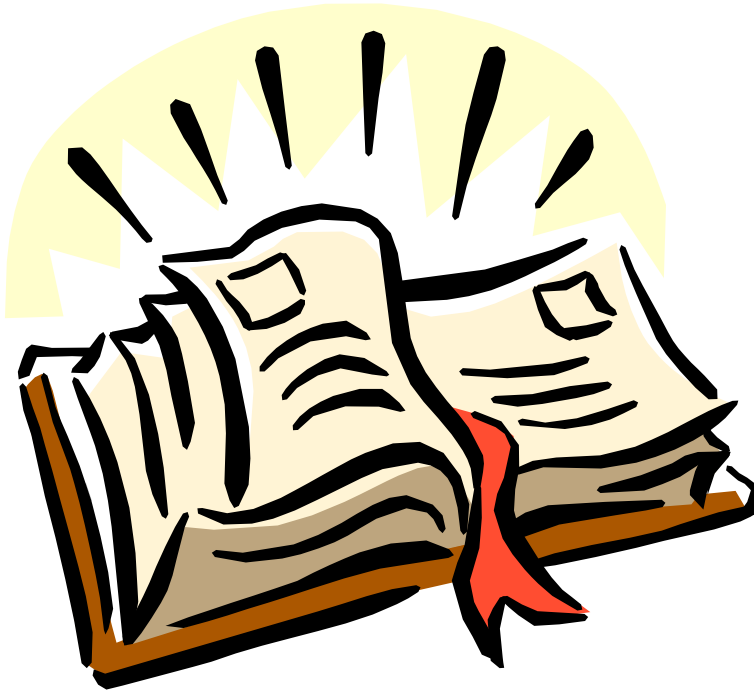


Bible Time for Kids!



CHILDREN'S DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF:

LESSON TITLE: The Whole Armor of God

THEME: We can be strong in the Lord.

SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 6:10-20



Dear Parents...

Welcome to Bible Time for Kids! Bible Time for Kids is a series of daily devotions for children and their families. Our purpose is to supplement our Sunday morning curriculum and give you an opportunity to encourage your children to develop a daily devotional life. We hope you and your family will be blessed as you study God's Word together.

This week in Children's Church we learned about **The Whole Armor of God**. The theme was "**We can be strong in the Lord.**" There is a very real spiritual battle that is taking place in the heavenly kingdom. Satan does not want God's people to be effective in living their lives for God and being a witness for Jesus. So he will do everything he can to get in the way of us living a life that is effective for God.

All Christians will experience spiritual warfare, including children. So it is very important that we learn about spiritual warfare and how we can fight against the enemy when he attacks. We will find that the Lord has provided us with spiritual weapons to fight this battle. We can be victorious in the warfare when we put on the full armor of God. We are going to take a close look at the armor this week.

The section of scripture that we studied was **Ephesians 6:10-20**. The following five devotions are based on either the scripture and/or the theme for Sunday's lesson. As a starting point it would be good for you to review these verses with your children.

These devotions are designed to help you reinforce Sunday's lesson throughout the week with your children, provide some more ideas for the application of God's Word in your children's lives and provide a tool to help in family devotions.

Obviously children at various age levels will respond to the devotional in different ways. You may want to add your own ideas to these to make them more age appropriate. May the Lord bless you as you study His Word together!

The Battle

Text: Ephesians 6:12 - "For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places."

Also read Ephesians 6:10-13

Did you know that when you become a Christian you are entering into the middle of a war? That may sound a little strange because when we come to Jesus our hearts are filled with peace and joy. Jesus and all of heaven are excited when any of us become a Christian, but there is someone who isn't as excited about us becoming a Christian and he doesn't want us to grow in Jesus and tell others about him. He is God's enemy and he is our enemy. His name is Satan.

The Bible teaches us that Satan was an angel, created by God. But he was lifted up with pride in his heart and wanted to be worshipped like God. Because of his pride he was cast down from heaven with a third of all of the angels who chose to follow him. Ever since that time he has been working against God, fighting against His plans and His people. He schemes and tries to come up with ways to lead people to follow him and not God. He wants as many people as possible to spend eternity in the lake of fire with him.

So there is a battle that is taking place. We don't see it because it is in the spiritual realm but we can see the results of it. Satan will try to come against God's people to keep them from doing what God wants them to do. He and his demons use temptation, bad thoughts and other ways to cause problems for Christians.

There are some very important things we need to remember in fighting this battle. First of all, Satan was created by God and he is not more powerful than God. The Bible teaches that God will one day bind Satan for 1,000 years and then cast him into the lake of fire. God has already won the war against Satan. Jesus defeated Satan when He rose from the dead. But while we wait for Satan to be bound, God has provided for us special armor for the battle. The armor is how we protect ourselves from Satan's attacks. We need to remember that we do have a strong enemy, but we also need to remember that God has provided all we need to defend ourselves and fight back in this spiritual battle.

- Who is our enemy? Who is more powerful - God or the devil?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Spiritual Warfare: The constant battle for Christians against evil influences in the world, and our own desires to do wrong, and Satan who wants us to do wrong.

Belts and Breastplates

Text: Ephesians 6:14 - "Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness,"

Also read Isaiah 11:5 and 59:17

The armor that God provides for us is like the armor that a soldier would wear. In fact, the apostle Paul had a Roman soldier in mind when he described the Christian's armor. We are going to look at the different parts of the armor that God has provided for us to protect us from the attacks of our enemy, the devil.

A Roman soldier would wear a strong piece of armor like a belt. It would protect his vital organs from attack and it would hold the rest of the armor together. For us the belt of truth means that we put God's truth in our lives by learning as much as possible about God's ways. Knowing God's truth will make us confident in our battle with Satan. For example, if Satan tries to tell you that God doesn't really love you, then you can fight back with the belt of truth because God tells you in the Bible that He loves you very much. Another way we can put on the belt of truth is to be sure that we are truthful in everything that we do. Satan is the father of lies and he is happy when we tell even the smallest lie. On the other hand, Jesus told us that He is the truth (John 14:6) and He will help us to tell the truth. When we speak the truth, we can have confidence against our enemy and defeat his power in our lives.

A soldier's breastplate would cover his body from his neck to his waist in his front and back. It was made of metal so that no arrow or sword could go through it. Can you think of the most important part of your body that a breastplate would cover? That's right, your heart! What protects our hearts is God's righteousness (thinking and acting the "right" way). It is true that none of us are righteous (think and act the "right" way) as the Bible teaches us. But when Jesus comes into our hearts he gives us His righteousness and helps us to live for Him. We still sin sometimes, but we can choose to live our lives the "right way". When we do that, Jesus will help us and we will be protecting our hearts from the attack of Satan.

- What is the belt of truth?
- What is the breastplate of righteousness?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Armor: What a soldier would wear to protect him in battle. Spiritual armor protects Christians against the attacks of our enemy the devil.

Day Three

Sandals and Shields

Text: Ephesians 6:15-16 - "...and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one."

Also read Isaiah 52:7 and 1 John 5:4

Do you suppose that good shoes would be something that is important in order to fight a battle? Absolutely! The Roman soldiers certainly thought that it was pretty important to be able to stand firm and not be moved. In fact, they would put nails through the bottom of their shoes so that they could stand in one position and not be pushed away in the middle of battle. We need to have a sure footing in our battle with our enemy. We need to have our feet covered with the gospel of peace. It is important that we are standing firm on the foundation of the gospel of Jesus Christ. That means that we believe that Jesus died, was buried and rose again the third day. As Christians, that is the most important thing that we can stand on in this unstable world. If it weren't for Jesus' death and rising again then we would be like the world and have no hope. It provides peace for our lives and allows us to share this gospel wherever our feet take us. This provides hope, peace and the message of salvation to others who don't know Jesus.

The Roman soldier would also carry a very large shield. It was usually made of wood. It was about 2 feet across and 4 feet long (perhaps you have a tape measure and could measure how big this is to get an idea). Their shield would offer double protection for them because the enemy's arrows would have to get past the shield and then the armor that they wore on their body in order for it to hurt them. Also, the sides of the shields were made to hook together so that several soldiers could join their shields together and form a line of protection in battle. The enemy would use everything they could to get at the soldier, even shooting arrows that were on fire to try to burn the shield. Our enemy, the devil also shoots flaming arrows at us. Some of the darts he shoots at us are lies, hateful thoughts or the temptation to sin. Sometimes he shoots them when we least expect it. We need to always have our shield of faith ready to protect us against them. Satan wants us to doubt God and His promises. That is why we need to surround ourselves with other Christians so we can "lock shields" together. We are encouraged by others who are going through the same things we are and can join together to fight the enemy. We need to put our complete trust in Jesus and His Word. Then we will find that our faith in Him will protect us from the fiery arrows that Satan tries to send our way.

- What should we cover our feet with?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Gospel of Peace - The good news that Jesus died, was buried and rose again.

Helmets and Swords

Text: Ephesians 6:17 - "And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;"

Also read 1 Thessalonians 5:8 and Hebrews 4:12

Can you think of times when people may wear a helmet? How about when riding a bicycle or a motorcycle? Or playing football or coming up to bat in baseball? Why do people wear helmets when doing these things? It is to protect one of the most important parts of their body, the head. If our head is injured then the rest of our body could stop working. So it is very important to protect our head. A soldier wears a helmet to protect his head from injury. So it is in our spiritual battle. We need to put on the helmet of salvation because Satan wants to attack our minds so that he can keep us from doing what God wants in our lives. There are two ways that we can protect our mind. First we can only allow into our minds those things that are good. We should think often about our salvation in Jesus and all that we have in Him. It will cause us to be continually thankful to the Lord and when we are thinking of good things then we won't be tempted to do wrong things. Another way we can protect our minds is by not allowing bad things to come in. We need to be careful about what we read, what movies we watch and what we see on television. Satan can use these things to attack our minds and lead us astray. Jesus protects us when we put on the helmet of salvation and guard our thoughts.

The last piece of armor we see is the sword of the Spirit. All of the armor that we have seen up to this point has been to help protect the soldier. The sword was used to attack the enemy. We are told that our sword is the Word of God, the Bible. We need to spend time in our Bibles every day to be strong and able to turn the attack around on the enemy when he comes against us. Do you remember the story of when Satan tempted Jesus in the wilderness? You can read it in Matthew, chapter 4. You will notice that Jesus used the sword of the Spirit when he answered every one of Satan's temptations. He told him verses from the Word of God. So, how can we fight back against the devil when he attacks us with temptations or bad thoughts? We can answer him with Bible verses. That is why it is so important to read our Bibles every day and to memorize Scripture. When we hide God's Word in our hearts it will give us the strength to say no to Satan sin.

- Why is it so important to protect our minds with the helmet of salvation?
- Why is it so important to practice using our "sword of the Spirit"?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Temptation: The desire placed in our minds by Satan to sin against God.

Day Five

Talking to the Commander

Text: Ephesians 6:18 - "...praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints..."

Also read Luke 18:1-8

Whenever a soldier would go to battle it was very important that he knew whom he was fighting, where he would be going, what he should be doing in the battle, and when to rest for a while and get more instructions. He would have Sergeants and Captains and Commanders who would give him his next orders and his job would be to obey those orders. Then when that job was completed he would return for more orders. No war could be won unless the soldier was receiving his orders, doing what he was told and reporting back to his commanders on what was happening in the battle.

In our spiritual battle it is the same way. Paul told us that we need to be "praying always." So how important do you think it is to pray all of the time? It is very important because if we don't pray we won't know what our Commander - Jesus wants us to do. There are two important parts of prayer that we need to know.

First, when we pray we need to ask the Lord what He would have us to do in the battle. We should take our orders from Him. Second, we need to report back to Him. We should come to Him and share with Him what is happening in our lives. The Lord loves us very much and He wants to see us have victory in the battle we are in. He wants to hear about what is happening in our lives and desires to help us. So it is very important to come to Him in prayer always.

After putting on our armor and receiving our orders, then we are ready to stand against anything that the enemy may bring our way. Let's remember to put on our armor every day. Let's spend time in our Bibles and in prayer every day so we can grow in our relationship with Jesus and become stronger and stronger as a good soldier in God's army.

- Why is prayer so important to be a good soldier of Jesus?

Kid's Prayer Time



This week as you pray thank the Lord that He has provided for us the armor that we need to fight the spiritual battle that we are in. Ask Him to help you to put on the armor every day and to be strong as you fight against the enemy.

Memory Verse...

First and Second Grade

“Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.”

Third Grade and Above

“Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.”

Ephesians 6:11