

THE ARMOR OF GOD



Ephesians 6:10-18

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“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. Stand therefore, having fastened on the **belt of truth**, and having put on the **breastplate of righteousness**, and, as **shoes for your feet**, having put on the **readiness given by the gospel of peace**. In all circumstances take up the **shield of faith**, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; and take the **helmet of salvation**, and the **sword of the Spirit**, which is the word of God.”

Decorate the Shields:

- Invite the children to decorate their shields to represent different pieces of the armor of God described in Ephesians 6:10-18:
 - **Helmet of Salvation:** Draw a helmet at the top of the shield and write "Salvation" or a symbol representing salvation.
 - **Breastplate of Righteousness:** Decorate the center of the shield with a breastplate shape and write "Righteousness" or draw symbols of righteousness.
 - **Shield of Faith:** Draw a shield shape and write "Faith" or decorate it with symbols of faith.
 - **Belt of Truth:** Add a belt shape around the shield's center and write "Truth" or draw symbols of truth.
 - **Shoes of the Gospel of Peace:** Draw or write symbols representing shoes or the gospel of peace at the bottom of the shield.
 - **Sword of the Spirit:** Draw a sword or a Bible to represent the sword of the Spirit.

While your child is decorating and drawing on their shield, here is a short devotional to read.

God knows that Satan doesn't want us to obey God. Satan will do anything in his power to try to keep us away from God. But God has given us armor to protect us from Satan and to stand up for our faith. The armor He gives us isn't physical armor, but it is even more effective!

The first piece of armor we read about is the belt of truth. We find Truth in God alone, and when we wrap this Truth around us like a belt, it holds everything together.

Our second piece of armor is the breastplate of righteousness. Even though we all sin, when we put our trust in Christ, we are forgiven. Having righteousness means that we're able to stand before God, because God sees the perfection of Jesus instead of our sins!

Boots are worn to protect your feet and help a soldier to run bravely into battle. Paul said our shoes are like the Gospel. It gives us courage to run and tell everyone about Jesus because we know the Gospel message can change the hearts of our enemies and bring peace!

What is a shield used for? (To protect from the enemy's arrows.) Paul said our shield is our faith in Christ. When Satan tries to fire arrows of lies and accusations at us, we can hold up our faith in Jesus and are protected.

Why should we wear a helmet? (To protect our heads.) Sometimes Satan tries to discourage us by the evil things he says and does. God has given us the helmet of salvation to protect us from Satan's lies. Our salvation keeps us from believing lies and giving up!

God has also given us a weapon with which to fight back. We have the sword of the Spirit, which we can think of as the Word of God. This sword is so powerful that nothing can beat it! It can defeat all our enemies so we should never be without it.

It's important to know how to use the tools that God gives us to fight Satan. God has given us armor to fight against Satan and He has promised to always be with us in this battle! Let's spend a moment thanking him for this wonderful truth!

Prayer: Dear God, thank you for giving us armor to protect us from Satan. Help us to remember each day to trust in your provision and protection. We pray all this in Jesus' name. Amen.