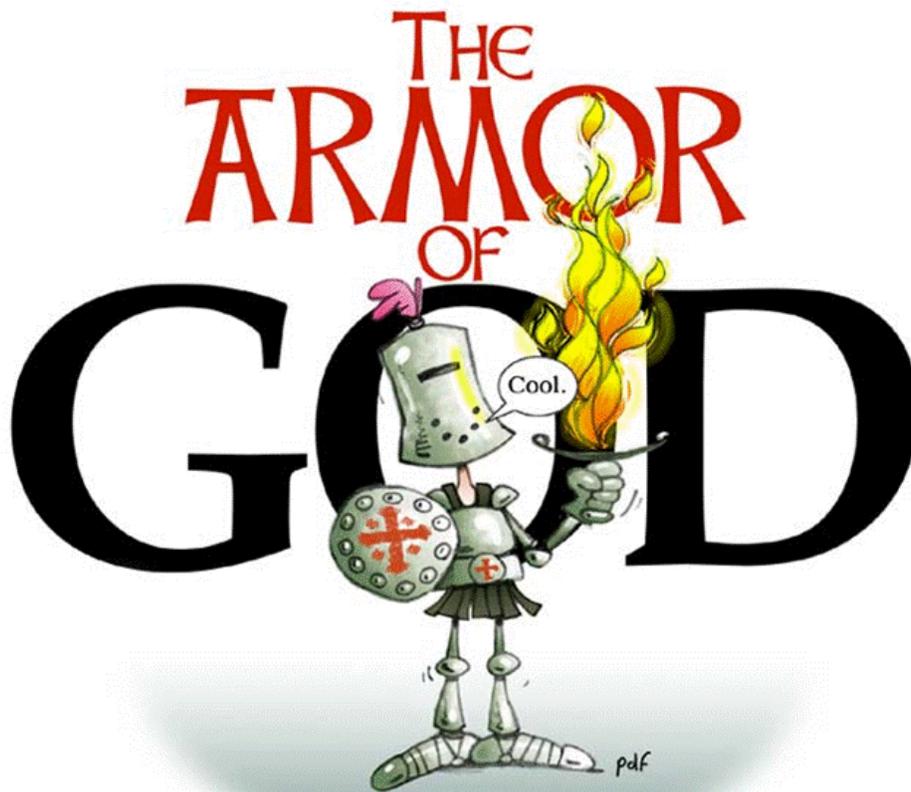


BIBLE BOOT CAMP

Ephesians 6:11-18

Administrator's Manual



Introduction

First of all thank you for choosing the Bible Boot Camp VBS program this summer! I pray that the activities found in this kit help you and the children grow closer to the Lord Jesus Christ. This is a real no-frills program, as you can see. I kept the art work and papers to a minimum to help reduce the overall cost and leave more money in your church for other important things. The content is on par with other programs, just with less use of clip art and ink. I did not include the craft materials or the snacks because it is more cost effective for you as a church to hunt down bargains in your own town. It should take about three hours each day to get through the activities. I hope this program is to your liking. Enjoy one fun-filled week of Bible Boot Camp!

Theme

The theme of this program is Bible Boot Camp. The foundational Scripture is the armor of God passage found in Ephesians 6:11-18. We will be training the children to be warriors for God. They will be referred to as privates in God's army. You as the administrator/ coordinator of children's ministry in your church will be referred to as the master sergeant. Teachers are drill sergeants, and volunteers in the kitchen (or mess hall) are cooks. Feel free to decorate the VBS spaces to look like a military boot camp. This is your chance to get creative and have fun!

Contents

In this kit you will find teachers' manuals, children's activity books, daily letters for the children to take home, and of course the manual in your hand. Along with the brief descriptions of each item below, take the time to go through each packet and familiarize yourself with all the material before meeting with your volunteers.

Teachers' Handbooks

The teacher's handbook is to pass out to each of your actual instructors. These are the adult helpers who will have the most direct contact with the children. The handbooks explain the games and activities in which the children will be participating in great detail. It also gives suggestions on what to say at each section to relieve as much stress as possible from the teachers. Their main job is to befriend the kids and act as mediators for the lessons.

Children's Activity Books

Included are workbooks at three levels of difficulty. These activity books are to reinforce each day's lesson by asking questions you will all have already discussed. The teachers will help guide their privates (students) through each day's work.

Daily Letters

These letters are an integral part of Bible Boot Camp. As every day comes to a close, be sure to send one of these notes home with every child. They tell what the privates did that day, and gives parents a heads up on what the children will be doing the next day. Most importantly, it includes questions about that day's lesson. The child should be able to answer them, but it is to help bring the family together and get everyone involved in Bible Boot Camp.

This Manual

As the administrator of VBS, it is your job to make sure everyone knows what they are doing and where they should be. You will also present the large group lesson each morning. This book will help you manage all the volunteers with minimal stress on your part.

The Volunteers

A strong crew of adult and teen volunteers is vital to any VBS week running smoothly. The most important thing to keep in mind is to be sure that all volunteers are working in their gifting. If someone is put into a situation with which they are uncomfortable, things will not work out as well as they could. Give your volunteers a chance to grow in the Lord by allowing them to use their spiritual gifts.

Teachers/drill sergeants

They will have the most contact with the children. They have to have patience and good listening skills. They must be able to convey the Biblical message in a meaningful way to the children. There should be enough teachers to have platoons of about ten children each.

Kitchen Staff/cooks

These important individuals are responsible for the snacks and water for the children. They have to organize all the food and make sure water tables are always stocked. Help them to stay as organized as possible and encourage them often, since they will probably be the least thanked of all the staff.

Drama Team

A group of four spunky teenagers and one big man would work well for this job. Give this team the scripts a week or so before so they have time to prepare. Be sure to help them gather all the necessary props and costumes they will need. If the members feel comfortable with it, they can also double as the worship leaders.

Worship Team

Teenagers make great worship leaders for VBS, too. It is a chance to help budding worship leaders grow into their roles. Maybe some drama team members would be willing to help out in this department. A tech savvy individual would be useful too. At least a week before camp, help them to prepare slideshows with the lyrics to the chosen worship songs. Limit the number of songs to four songs per day. Make sure the lyrics are on a level children can comprehend.

First Aid/Medics

With a large group of children, there are bound to be injuries. Have a few first-aid certified adults around and be well stocked in first aid items. Have a medic stationed near the physical activity area, as this is where most injuries are likely to occur.

Crafts/Weapon Making

A craft leader is optional. If your church is small enough, the teachers can handle this job as they have all the information they need in their book, but if you get enough volunteers, it would be nice to have someone to lead crafts so the teachers can discuss the application of the activity while the craft leader works out the technicalities of the project. A patient individual is best here, as the children will be antsy when they see all the supplies they will get to use.

Physical Activity Leaders

This is also an optional job. The teachers could do this, but they would be better off watching and encouraging the privates as they play the game. The physical activity leader should be a loud, outgoing and energetic person who is not afraid to lay down the law when the need arises. Children may get too competitive here and need someone to reign them in. Have helpers around for the physical activity leader to lead the teams in the game and for extra eyes on the field. Teenagers would be great and would probably enjoy playing with the kids, too.

Grunts

Yup, I said it, grunts. A mass of people to run around and set things up, tear them down and run around and make sure everyone's needs are met. Grunts are great for making copies, running from one side of the church to the other to get more water. They can also help clean up from snack time and craft time. The decorators fall into this category, as do those who will help advertise VBS in months leading up to it. Grunts are typically humble, servant-oriented people who prefer to be behind the scenes.

The Activities

Large Group Time

Large Group Lesson

Every day you will be in charge of leading the large group discussion at the beginning of boot camp. This is what sets the tone for the whole day and will be the first presentation of the lesson they get, so they should be more alert now than they will be the rest of the day. Don't worry, I've written out scripts for you that you can find later in this manual. Don't forget to pray when you start this time.

Musical Worship

Worship takes place during the opening large group session. Have the lyrics displayed on a large screen so all the children can follow along. If you have songs you use during Sunday school every week, these would work fine. Limit the number of songs to four. The children's attention spans will not hold for much more than that. Have the first three songs be high energy to get the kids moving and the last one a slower song where they can sit down and regain control of themselves before moving into small groups.

Small Group Time

The platoons can rotate through the activities in small group time, depending on the number of platoons you have. If you choose to do this, prepare a schedule a week or two in advance. Make sure you have enough rooms or secluded spaces so each small group can work without distractions of other groups.

Obstacle Course/Outdoor Game

A big, grassy field would be best for all the games, but a parking lot will work too. Just make sure there are not any cars around. All the outdoor games tie in directly with the day's big idea. Be sure you understand the connection so you can help the children understand as well. Have a back up game, like an obstacle course set up, just in case the scheduled game runs short.

Water/snack break

This is a time for the children to relax and rehydrate during all their busy activities. After a short break, the children can help put together food baskets for needy families. Whenever Christians gather, the world should know about it. Help these children discover the joys of service this week. Find an organization in your own town in need of assistance.

Scripture discussion/activity book

The activity book will help reinforce everything the privates learn throughout the day. This is a time for the teachers to sit down with their platoons and answer any questions they may have. At the very beginning, the teachers should lead a brief discussion on the things learned so far.

Craft/"weapon making"

This activity could take some time, so be sure the craft area is well organized and well stocked. Cover the floors and tables with newspapers and cloths to protect the room. Encourage the children to work efficiently so they have time to finish their craft project. Be sure you provide a place to store all the craft items for the week. You need room for everything to dry. One idea for storage is to designate an area in the craft room for each platoon. From there, label each space with each child's name and stack the things up there, or place them in a large paper bag with the child's name and platoon on it.

Large Group Time

Close in a large group time so parents can pick their children up exactly where they dropped them off. This also allows you to nicely wrap up the day.

Closing Discussion

End the day with a discussion of everything covered that day, from the big idea to the small group activities. Drive home the practical application of the piece of spiritual armor discussed that day. Keep this short, then introduce and set up the skit.

Skit

A short skit ends the day on a light note and presents the big idea in yet another manner to be sure everyone gets it. This comes at the end of the day rather than at the beginning because the children are tired, and need a fun, easy-to-follow presentation of the lesson.

The characters:

- Sergeant Hart- a big grown up that has a real presence. Kind of a gruff guy with a short temper, but he really loves his privates.
- Private Ivan Issue- one goofy kid. He's kind of the butt of all the jokes. He never has his armor on. A rough and rowdy guy willing to fall flat on his face for the sake of the skit.
- Private JB Goode- the sensible one. Kind of a nerd. Quiet kid that gets his work done.
- Private Stacy Moore- loud. The kind of girl that sticks out in a crowd and everyone loves to be around because they always know something is going to happen with her around.
- Private Aimee Wright- has a slight arrogance issue. She has all the answers and she wants everyone to know that. She is the "I told you so" one.

The setting:

- The kids are in Bible Boot Camp, and Sgt. Hart is training them to face the battle against Satan.

- Every day the skit will apply to the piece of armor studied that day.
- The decorations you use for your own Bible Boot Camp can double as props for the skits.

Prayer

Close in prayer and be sure every child gets a “The Battle Continues” take home sheet for that day. They do not need to bring these back, they are just to benefit the family.

Making It Your Own

This program is meant to be a guide to help you create the best VBS experience for your group. Take creative license in personalizing your space! Browse your local army surplus store for props and decorations. Get creative with costumes. Maybe you could dress in camouflage or have someone from the drama team dress up in a suit of armor as you lead the large group discussion.

For the name tags for the children and/or volunteers, find blank dog tags and write the person’s name and platoon name on it. Decorate one side with the platoon’s symbol or color for even easier recognition. These could also be made out of cardboard and put on yarn.

Advertise Bible Boot Camp well in advance. Put an announcement in your bulletin, or have one of your skit characters walk onto the stage and make an announcement. As the big day gets closer, you can begin to decorate your church campus to look like a military boot camp to build excitement.

If your budget allows, consider making t-shirts for the children and/or volunteers. Make sure they are distinct designs or colors to help tell people apart by platoon and/or job description. Divide the platoons into four age groups: Prekindergarten-Kindergarten, 1-2 grades, 3-4 grades, and 5-6 grades.

Don’t forget to find some way to thank your volunteers at the end to the week by presenting them with a small gift and short note. To follow with the theme, you could give all the volunteers camouflage t-shirts that say, “I survived Bible Boot Camp,” or binoculars with a note saying, “thank you for seeing the kids through!”

As gifts for either the volunteers or children, consider getting little pin-on medals or medals on lanyards to commemorate “Bravery in Battle” or “Heart to Hear your Friends” or other such qualities. Keep an eye out for the qualities the children have and reward them for ways they have grown into these good qualities. If given to the children, make sure everyone gets a medal. Have the teachers pass them out on the last day, just before parents arrive.

A note on the “sword pages:” this is where the children write their daily Bible verses. To make them, fold a sheet of paper in half lengthwise. Unfold and cut on the crease. Fold in the top two corners to the center of the page. Unfold and cut. There’s one! You can use this as a template. Have the grunts help- you need about 15 pages per student. The sword itself is a poster board folder that your team will make before hand for each student. The blade needs to be long enough to fit the sword pages in it, and then you will need a hilt and handle. Take two sword cutouts and glue them together at the handles and hilts. Leave enough room in the handle for the sword pages to slip in, like a pocket of a folder. The blade part will stay open, like covers of a book. That way, children can fold back one blade and read the verses on their sword pages. Staple the sword pages together at the bottom so they can be removed.

VBS in a Nutshell

	Day One	Day Two	Day Three	Day Four	Day Five
Piece of Armor	Belt of Truth	Breastplate of Righteousness	Shoes of the Gospel of Peace	Shield of Faith	Helmet of Salvation and Sword of the Spirit
Big Idea	<i>Satan is known as the Great Deceiver. He is a master at lying to us, so we need to be trained in the Truth. The Belt of Truth helps us to defend against Satan's lies.</i>	<i>The Breastplate of Righteousness protects our hearts. Righteousness is the state of being "right with God." It is striving to keep sins out of our hearts</i>	<i>All warriors have to be prepared to run, because they never know when battle will hit. We always need to have on the Shoes of the Gospel of Peace so we can be prepared to share the Good News with anyone who needs to hear it.</i>	<i>Sometimes we sin because Satan finds that little weakness in our armor and aims well. The Shield of Faith moves to cover those weaknesses when we don't have the knowledge or strength to face a situation. Our shield will never fail because God is always faithful to us.</i>	<i>The Helmet of Salvation protects us from thinking ungodly thoughts and the Sword of the Spirit guides us into a Godly way of thinking and living. It helps us be proactive in fighting Satan.</i>
Scripture References	Ephesians 6:11-18 and John 14:6	Ephesians 6:11-18 and Deuteronomy 6:25	Ephesians 6:11-18, John 16:33 and 1 Peter 3:15	Ephesians 6:11-18 and Hebrews 11:3 and Nehemiah 9:33	Ephesians 6:11-18, Isaiah 12:2, and 2 Timothy 3:16
Weaponry (craft)	Tool Belt	Shirt	Shoelaces	Shield	Hat and sword
Obstacle Course (physical activity)	Leaps and Bounds	Water Wars	Shoe Soup	Faith Ball	Take a Swing at Temptation
Snack (Mess Hall)	Fruit Roll-Ups	Heart shaped sugar cookies	Pretzels	Rice Krispies	Trail Mix

Daily Breakdown

Day One: Introduction and the Belt of Truth

Prep Time:

Every day one of your first responsibilities is to help prepare the volunteers for their duties. Meet with everyone half an hour before you have children arrive to allow yourself time to answer questions, give a rundown of the day's plan, and most importantly, pray as a group. During this time, check on the following:

- Worship team: Is the slideshow up and ready to go?
- Drama team: Have all your props? Memorized the script?
- Crafts department: Are all the supplies laid out for the first group? The area protected with newspapers? Designated area labeled for project storage?
- Snack duty: Have enough snacks for everyone and a table set up for them? Do you have enough water jugs filled up and paper cups available? Do you have an area set up for the service project?
- Medics: Do you have all your supplies, and is your tent/area set up? Are you aware of any children with particular health needs, such as diabetes or asthma?
- Obstacle course leaders: Is your area cleared of all debris? Do you have all the materials you need and do you understand the rules?
- Teachers: Any questions on today's lesson? Do you have your platoon roster?
- Grunts: Is everything set up? Do you all have a post to attend today?
- Does everyone have the small group schedule for today?
- Convey the big idea to the group.
- Pray together.

Sign in and large group discussion:

Grunts can man the sign in table and make sure all privates find their drill sergeants. Once everyone is settled, continue with the following:

Once everyone settles in, **pray** as a group.

Example prayer: "Dear God, thank you for bringing us all to Bible Boot Camp safely. We ask that you would come and fill up our hearts with your mighty power and your Holy Spirit. Help us to make friends, have fun, and learn all about the Spiritual Armor this week. We love you Lord and thank you for sending your Son to die on the cross for our sins. It's in your holy name that we pray. Amen."

Read Ephesians 6:11-18. Discuss plans for boot camp and go over the armor of God briefly. Tell the kids that by the end of the week, they should have Ephesians 6:11 memorized. **Recite** it together twice. (Display it on an overhead as you read it. Be sure it is posted around the camp so kids can see it as they go about their day.) Read the Scripture first and recite the power

verse, then **Say:** How many of you have ever seen pictures of medieval knights all dressed up in their armor? (Allow kids to raise their hands.) Why did these warriors have to wear all that armor? (Have a student or two respond.) Right. So how many of you think you will ever really need to wear armor like that, in your everyday life? Well the truth is, we do. God tells us in His Word that we are at war right now. Not this country with another country, but Christians are at war with the Devil. Even each one of you. So if we are at war, what should we do to prepare for a new battle every day? (Allow students to respond.) Read our Bibles, pray, go to church. Those are all great answers. But did you know that God has told us about a way we can protect ourselves from attacks from Satan? In the book of Ephesians in the Bible, Paul writes about the armor of God. This is a metaphor. We can't go to a store and buy spiritual armor, but they are still real tools that God wants us to use to fight for Him. He wants us to be warriors for Him, so he gives us six pieces of armor to wear. This week we will learn about all six of them and how to put them on and wear them every day. Now, who can tell me what the first piece of armor is in Ephesians? Does anyone know? (Allow kids to respond.) Right, it's the Belt of Truth. What do belts do? They hold up your pants, don't they? In Roman times when the book of Ephesians was written, the Roman warrior's belt held all their weapons and tools. If their belt was on wrong, or not on at all, then they would not be efficient warriors. The belt of Truth represents what we know about God. It's our storage place for knowledge of God. This knowledge of God that we have helps to keep all the other pieces of armor together. If you don't know the truth about God, then how will you be able to put on a helmet of Salvation? Today we will discuss the importance of the Belt of Truth and we will learn how to wear it every day.

Great job. Remember, you don't have to follow this script to the letter. Teach and lead as the Spirit guides you. Now have the **worship team** take over. After worship, dismiss everyone into small group time.

Small Group Time:

Your responsibility in this time is to bounce around each station and see how the volunteers and platoons are doing. Enjoy watching everyone grow in the Lord in this time!

Large Group Time:

Introduce the skit and read the setting, then enjoy it with the children. **Pray** as a group. Warn the kids to wear a swim suit under their clothes and/or bring a change of clothes tomorrow.

Example prayer: "Dear God thank you for letting us have fun and spend time with you today. I pray that we would remember to put on the Belt of Truth every day so we can fight against Satan's lies. Please bring us all back here safely tomorrow. Amen."

Send home notes for tomorrow with every child.

Afterwards:

Meet with all volunteers to pray and discuss the day's happenings. What did you learn about your students? Did you have any problems with kids getting along or not listening or not participating? How can you solve these problems for tomorrow? What went really well and how can you keep this up for the rest of the week?

Day Two: The Breastplate of Righteousness

Prep Time:

Meet with everyone half an hour before you have children arrive to allow yourself time to answer questions, give a rundown of the day's plan, and most importantly, pray as a group.

During this time, check on the following:

- Worship team: Is the slideshow up and ready to go?
- Drama team: Have all your props? Memorized the script?
- Crafts department: Are all the supplies laid out for the first group? The area protected with newspapers? Designated area labeled for project storage?
- Snack duty: Have enough snacks for everyone and a table set up for them? Do you have enough water jugs filled up and paper cups available? Do you have an area set up for the service project?
- Medics: Do you have all your supplies, and is your tent/area set up?
- Obstacle course leaders: Is your area cleared of all debris? Do you have all the materials you need and do you understand the rules?
- Teachers: Any questions on today's lesson? Do you have your platoon roster?
- Grunts: Is everything set up? Do you all have a post to attend today?
- Does everyone have the small group schedule for today?
- Convey the big idea to the group.
- Pray together.

Sign in and large group discussion:

Grunts can man the sign in table and make sure all privates find their drill sergeants. Once everyone is settled, continue with the following:

Once everyone is **signed in** and with their team drill sergeant, **pray** as a group. *"Dear God thank you for bringing us back together again today. I pray that we would continue to have fun with our friends and to learn about your armor. Help us to put on the Belt of Truth and the Breastplate of Righteousness today. It's in your name we pray. Amen."*

Read Ephesians 6:14. Go over yesterday's lesson as a refresher. Remind the kids that by the end of the week, they should have Ephesians 6:11 memorized. **Recite** it together twice. **Say**, Who remembers what we talked about yesterday? (Allow students to respond.) Right, we discussed the Belt of Truth and how it can help us fight against Satan's lies. Today we are going to learn about the Breastplate of Righteousness. Who knows what righteousness means? (Allow students to respond.) That's correct, righteousness is being right with God. It means doing our best to make sure there is no sin in our lives. What does a breastplate protect?

(Allow students to respond.) All your internal organs, like your heart and stomach. I don't want you to answer out loud, but can any of you think of a time when you sinned? Think to yourself how you felt after you sinned. (Give time for students to think.) At first it may have felt really good, but after a while, you probably felt pretty bad, huh? That's because when we sin, we aren't wearing the Breastplate of Righteousness. This makes it even easier for Satan to come in and help us to sin more. Remember, we make the choice to let Satan lead us to sin. If we work to put on the Breastplate of Righteousness every day, then it will be really hard for him to lead us into sin because we will be focused on following the commandments God gives us.

After **worship**, dismiss the platoons into their small group time.

Small Group Time:

Your responsibility in this time is to visit each station and see how the volunteers and platoons are doing. Enjoy watching everyone grow in the Lord in this time!

Large Group Time:

Enjoy the **skit** with the children. **Pray** as a group.

Example prayer: "Dear God thank you for letting us have fun and spend time with you today. I pray that we would remember to put on the Breastplate of Righteousness every day so we will be protected from impure sins. Please bring us all back here safely tomorrow. Amen."

Send home notes for tomorrow with every child.

Afterwards:

Meet with all volunteers to pray and discuss the day's happenings. What did you learn about your students? Did you have any problems with kids getting along or not listening or not participating? How can you solve these problems for tomorrow? What went really well and how can you keep this up for the rest of the week?

Day Three: Preparation and the Shoes of the Gospel of Peace

Prep Time:

Meet with everyone half an hour before you have children arrive to allow yourself time to answer questions, give a rundown of the day's plan, and most importantly, pray as a group.

During this time, check on the following:

- Worship team: Is the slideshow up and ready to go?
- Drama team: Have all your props? Memorized the script?
- Crafts department: Are all the supplies laid out for the first group? The area protected with newspapers? Designated area labeled for project storage?
- Snack duty: Have enough snacks for everyone and a table set up for them? Do you have enough water jugs filled up and paper cups available? Do you have an area set up for the service project?
- Medics: Do you have all your supplies, and is your tent/area set up?
- Obstacle course leaders: Is your area cleared of all debris? Do you have all the materials you need and do you understand the rules?
- Teachers: Any questions on today's lesson? Do you have your platoon roster?
- Grunts: Is everything set up? Do you all have a post to attend today?
- Does everyone have the small group schedule for today?
- Convey the big idea to the group.
- Pray together.

Sign in and large group discussion:

Grunts can man the sign in table and make sure all privates find their drill sergeants. Once everyone is settled, continue with the following:

Pray as a group. *"Dear God, thank you for bringing us here safely today. I pray that we would continue to enjoy time with friends as we learn how to put on the armor of God. I ask that you would help us to listen closely as we learn about the importance of sharing the Gospel. Thank you for dying on the cross for us. It's in your name we pray. Amen."*

Read Ephesians 6:15. Go over yesterday's lesson as a refresher. Remind the kids that by the end of the week, they should have Ephesians 6:11 memorized. **Recite** it together twice. **Say:** Raise your hand if you are wearing shoes today. (Allow students to respond.) Well, why? (Have a student or two respond.) Of course you wore shoes today so you would be prepared for today's activities. Why do you think shoes are included in the Armor of God? (Allow students to respond.) We are told to prepare our feet with the preparation that comes with the Gospel of Peace. What is the Gospel of Peace, and why do we need to prepare ourselves with it? (Allow students time to respond.) The Gospel of Peace is that Jesus came and died on the cross for our sins and then rose from the dead and ascended into Heaven. This means that if we believe in Jesus Christ and ask Him to forgive us of our sins, then we can live a peaceful life without worry. We don't have to worry because we know we are going to Heaven. Why do

you think we have to prepare our feet with this? (Allow students to respond.) Our job as warriors for God is to let as many people as we can know about the Gospel. One way we can do this is to tell them about the ABC's of salvation. What are the ABC's of salvation? (Allow students to respond.) A means you accept that you're a sinner and need somebody to help you out of your sins. B means you believe that Jesus Christ has already died for all of your sins and wants you to follow Him for the rest of your life and someday go to Heaven. C means you confess your sins to Jesus and ask Him to come into your heart and forgive you of your sins. D means you Do it today. If you haven't already done this in your own life, then how can you show other people how to do this? So if you have never asked Jesus to forgive you of your sins, we're going to give you a chance right now.

Pray with the group. Let every child stay where they are and emphasize that this is a personal friendship with Jesus. You don't do it because your friend is, you do it because you recognize you need Jesus. **Say** *"Heavenly Father thank you for sending your son to die on the cross for me. I recognize that I am a sinner and I need you to save me. Please forgive me of my sins and help me to follow you for the rest of my life. Amen."*

After **worship**, dismiss the platoons into their small group time.

Small Group Time:

Your responsibility in this time is to visit each station and see how the volunteers and platoons are doing. Enjoy watching everyone grow in the Lord in this time!

Large Group Time:

Enjoy the **skit** with the children. **Pray** as a group.

Example prayer: "Dear God thank you for letting us have fun and spend time with you today. I pray that we would remember to put on the shoes of the Gospel of peace every day so we can fight against Satan's lies and carry your Good News throughout the world. Please bring us all back here safely tomorrow. Amen."

Send home notes for tomorrow with every child.

Afterwards:

Meet with all volunteers to pray and discuss the day's happenings. What did you learn about your students? Did you have any problems with kids getting along or not listening or not participating? How can you solve these problems for tomorrow? What went really well and how can you keep this up for the rest of the week?

Day Four: The Shield of Faith

Prep Time:

Meet with everyone half an hour before you have children arrive to allow yourself time to answer questions, give a rundown of the day's plan, and most importantly, pray as a group.

During this time, check on the following:

- Worship team: Is the slideshow up and ready to go?
- Drama team: Have all your props? Memorized the script?
- Crafts department: Are all the supplies laid out for the first group? The area protected with newspapers? Designated area labeled for project storage?
- Snack duty: Have enough snacks for everyone and a table set up for them? Do you have enough water jugs filled up and paper cups available? Do you have an area set up for the service project?
- Medics: Do you have all your supplies, and is your tent/area set up?
- Obstacle course leaders: Is your area cleared of all debris? Do you have all the materials you need and do you understand the rules?
- Teachers: Any questions on today's lesson? Do you have your platoon roster?
- Grunts: Is everything set up? Do you all have a post to attend today?
- Does everyone have the small group schedule for today?
- Convey the big idea to the group.
- Pray together.

Sign in and large group discussion:

Grunts can man the sign in table and make sure all privates find their drill sergeants. Once everyone is settled, continue with the following:

Pray as a group. *"Dear God thank you for the great lessons you have been sharing with us this week. I pray that you would continue to keep us energetic and focused as our week in Bible Boot Camp comes to a close. Help us to learn how to use your Shield of Faith to cover weaknesses in our lives. Thank you for the grace you have poured out onto us through your Son Jesus Christ. It's in your name we pray. Amen."*

Read Ephesians 6:16. Go over yesterday's lesson as a refresher. Remind the kids that by the end of the week, they should have Ephesians 6:11 memorized. **Recite** it together twice. **Say**, Knights wear a lot of armor, don't they? It doesn't seem like there is any weakness in all that metal, but they still need to carry a shield. No matter how well protected a warrior may seem, there is always a weakness somewhere. All the enemy has to do is find the weakness and they will be able to take the enemy down. That's why warriors have shields. What makes the shield so unique? (Allow students time to respond.) Unlike the other pieces of armor, the shield isn't strapped on to a certain part of your body. The shield can move to cover weaknesses in a warrior's armor and keep arrows from piercing through. Great warriors know how to use their shield to protect them from danger. We need to do the same thing with the Shield of Faith. Faith covers areas of our lives where we struggle with sins or where we just don't know the

answer to a question. Hebrews 11 talks tells us of people in the Old Testament who had faith to get through difficult situations, like when Abraham and Sarah trusted that God would provide them with a child. Then when God fulfilled this promise, He asked Abraham to sacrifice his son Isaac. Now think about how you would feel if you got something you really wanted from God, and then you were told to give it back, you couldn't have it anymore? (Give students time to think.) That's exactly what God asked Abraham to do. But Abraham knew that God wouldn't break His promise. He had faith that God would pull through. That's because GOD IS ALWAYS FAITHFUL.

After **worship**, dismiss the platoons into their small group time.

Small Group Time:

Your responsibility in this time is to visit each station and see how the volunteers and platoons are doing. Enjoy watching everyone grow in the Lord in this time!

Large Group Time:

Enjoy the **skit** with the children. **Pray** as a group.

Example prayer: "Dear God thank you for letting us have fun and spend time with you today. I pray that we would remember to take up the Shield of Faith every day to help us overcome any doubts and sins in our lives. Help us to remember that You are always faithful, even when we are not. Please bring us all back here safely tomorrow for the last day of Bible Boot Camp. Amen."

Send home notes for tomorrow with every child.

Afterwards:

Meet with all volunteers to pray and discuss the day's happenings. What did you learn about your students? Did you have any problems with kids getting along or not listening or not participating? How can you solve these problems for tomorrow? What went really well and how can you keep this up for tomorrow?

Day Five: The Helmet of Salvation and the Sword of the Spirit

Prep Time:

Meet with everyone half an hour before you have children arrive to allow yourself time to answer questions, give a rundown of the day's plan, and most importantly, pray as a group.

During this time, check on the following:

- Worship team: Is the slideshow up and ready to go?
- Drama team: Have all your props? Memorized the script?
- Crafts department: Are all the supplies laid out for the first group? The area protected with newspapers? Designated area labeled for project storage?
- Snack duty: Have enough snacks for everyone and a table set up for them? Do you have enough water jugs filled up and paper cups available? Do you have an area set up for the service project?
- Medics: Do you have all your supplies, and is your tent/area set up?
- Obstacle course leaders: Is your area cleared of all debris? Do you have all the materials you need and do you understand the rules?
- Teachers: Any questions on today's lesson? Do you have your platoon roster?
- Grunts: Is everything set up? Do you all have a post to attend today?
- Does everyone have the small group schedule for today?
- Convey the big idea to the group.
- Pray together.

Sign in and large group discussion:

Grunts can man the sign in table and make sure all privates find their drill sergeants. Once everyone is settled, continue with the following:

Pray as a group. *"Thank you Lord for bringing us to the final day of Bible Boot Camp. Thank you for the things we have learned and the friends we have made. Let us not forget about your armor after this week, but may we put on your full armor every day. Thank you for the gift of your Holy Word and thank you for sending your Son to die on the cross so we can have a relationship with you. It's in your holy name we pray. Amen."*

Read Ephesians 6:17. Go over all the previously discussed pieces of armor so the privates can see how it all fits together. Remind the kids that by today, they should have Ephesians 6:11 memorized. Have them **recite** it on their own. **Say**, It's been a fun week learning about the Armor of God, hasn't it? Well we aren't done yet. We still have two very important pieces to cover today. Can anybody tell me what they are? (Allow students to respond.) That's right, the Helmet of Salvation and the Sword of the Spirit. Can anyone here explain what salvation is to me? (Allow a student to answer.) Salvation is when Jesus comes in our lives and takes away our sins. He saves us from an eternity in Hell. Salvation is the greatest gift we could ever receive because it took Jesus Christ dying on the cross for us to get to go to Heaven. God is so holy that He can't be in the presence of sin. All it takes is one little sin and then we deserve to be in Hell, away from the presence of God. Jesus is the only way to get to Heaven. All we have

to do is accept that we are sinners, believe Jesus Christ died for our sins, and confess our sins to Him, then we get to spend eternity with God. We can never lose our salvation. Even after we are saved, we still sin. Does God stop loving us if we sin? (Allow students to answer.) No. God loves us no matter what we do. The Bible says in 2 Corinthians 5:17 that when we become Christians, we become new creations. This means that our entire way of thinking changes. We think about how we can please God and serve Him when before we were Christians, we were only interested in serving ourselves. If we truly believe in Jesus and let the Holy Spirit take over our lives, then we never go back to our old way of thinking, no matter how much we sin. So the Helmet of Salvation can never come off. What about the Sword of the Spirit? This one is pretty straightforward. The Sword of the Spirit is the Word of God. It's the Bible. The Bible is a Sword because it is how we fight back against the devil. All the other pieces of armor are to defend ourselves. When we memorize Scripture, we have a way to prove that the things Satan tells us are just lies. So today we will focus on how to put on our Helmets of Salvation and use our Swords of the Spirit.

After **worship**, dismiss the platoons into their small group time.

Small Group Time:

Your responsibility in this time is to visit each station and see how the volunteers and platoons are doing. Enjoy watching everyone grow in the Lord in this time!

Large Group Time:

Enjoy the **skit** with the children. **Pray** as a group.

Example prayer: "Dear God thank you for letting us have fun and spend time with you this week. Thank you for giving me us the gift of salvation and changing our lives forever. Thank you for the gift of your Word which we can use to fight off Satan's lies. Help us to continue to put on your armor every day so we can fight for you. Thank you for sending your Son to die for us so we can win over sin. It's in your name we pray. Amen."

Send home the last day's notes with every child.

Afterwards:

Meet with all volunteers to pray and discuss the day's happenings. What did you learn about your students? Did you have any problems with kids getting along or not listening or not participating? How can you solve these problems for tomorrow? What went really well and how will you keep this for next year's VBS program?

More Info:

Make copies of the following pages (the activities) and give them to the appropriate volunteers a week before camp begins so everyone can prepare for their roles.

Day One Obstacle Course: Leaps and Bounds

Materials:

- True or false questions and answers
- Tape or chalk to mark a starting line and a finish line some 10 feet away. (Enough to challenge the kids, but not to frustrate anyone.)

Process:

- Break up into your small group platoons.
- Tell the children that you will ask them a series of true or false questions about the Bible. For each question they get right, they take one giant leap towards the finish line. If they miss a question, they stay where they are. The first one to cross the finish line wins.
- Have them line up at the starting line.
- Ask the child closest to you the first question.
- Continue in game play until every child has crossed the finish line.

Leaps and Bounds Questions

1. True or **false**: Polar bears live in the Amazon.
2. **True** or false: Jesus was born in Bethlehem.
3. True or **false**: Birds live underwater.
4. **True** or false: Genesis is the first book in the Bible.
5. True or **false**: The Bible was originally written in Latin.
6. True or **false**: Moses built the ark.
7. **True** or false: In the painting of Mona Lisa, she has no eyebrows.
8. True or **false**: It took God a month to create the Universe.
9. **True** or false: Jesus Christ died for the sins of the world.
10. True or **false**: It always snows in the summer.
11. True or **false**: Halloween is when we celebrate the birth of Christ.
12. **True** or false: The sky is blue.
13. True or **false**: Jesus isn't the only way to get to Heaven.
14. True or **false**: Libraries are where you buy groceries.
15. **True** or false: Disney characters Pluto and Goofy are both dogs.
16. **True** or false: Koalas have fingerprints.
17. **True** or false: Almonds are part of the peach family.
18. True or **false**: Albuquerque is the capital of New Mexico.
19. True or **false**: Las Angeles, California is the capital of the USA.
20. **True** or false: A cockroach can live a week without its head.
21. True or **false**: Elephants have no sense of smell.
22. **True** or false: Camels can walk 100 miles without drinking water.
23. True or **false**: The Bible was written by Moses.
24. **True** or false: In some countries, it is illegal to own a Bible.
25. True or **false**: Roses are always red.

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Day One Weaponry: Tool Belts of Truth

Materials:

- A canvas tool belt for each child
- Permanent markers or fabric markers/paint
- Table cloths
- A few tracts per child.

Process:

- Read Ephesians 6:14a.
- Briefly remind the privates what the Scripture means for us.
- Explain that these real belts only remind us of the spiritual belt.
- Make sure kids use a permanent marker to write their names on the inside of the belt so they can get theirs back later.
- Allow the kids to decorate their belt however they want, as long as it reminds them of Truth.
- Put the tracts in one of the pockets.

Have children leave their tool belt at church. All pieces of armor will be taken home on Friday.

Tara Merrill

Skit Day One: The Belt of Truth

Setting: A ladder or step stool set up on the stage with tools of all sorts scattered on the ground. If you want, you can have the ladder go up to a wood project, or it can open onto nothing and the kids can use their imaginations. Have sound effects set up for the tool sounds.

Opens on Private Ivan Issue walking onto stage, whistling as he grabs a tool and climbs the ladder. He works for a moment, climbs down and gets another tool then climbs back up the ladder. When he's climbing down after using that tool, STACY and AIMEE enter. They watch him climb up the ladder, use the third tool, then climb back down.

Aimee: What are you doing, Ivan?

Ivan: (still working) I'm building a new balance beam for our obstacle course.

Stacy: So let me get this straight. You get a tool, climb up the ladder, use the tool, climb down the ladder, get a new tool, climb up the ladder, use the tool-

Aimee: Yes, Stacy, we get the idea. Ivan, wouldn't it be easier if you had a tool belt?

JB: (running in, panicked) The sergeant is coming! The sergeant is coming! We have to get this cleaned up!

(Privates scramble to get the tools picked up. Sgt. Hart stomps in and calls them to attention. The privates stand up. Each has a tool behind their backs. A few tools are still on the ground.)

Hart: (Notices the tools on the ground, yells) What's with these tools on the ground, privates?

(Privates start to make excuses, then Ivan steps forward. Salutes with the tool in his hand, then puts it down sheepishly.)

Ivan: Sir, it was me. I was just building a new balance beam for our obstacle course and-

Hart: and where is your tool belt, Private Issue?

Ivan: My, my...

Hart: Wright! Explain to Private Issue why he needs a tool belt.

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Aimee: (Steps forward, drops tool, salutes) A tool belt holds all the necessary tools to get a job done. It keeps the tools close to you so you don't have to go up and down a ladder to get them. (Steps back into line.)

Hart: Thank you Aimee. Private Moore, tell us why we Christian soldiers need the Belt of Truth.

Stacy: (steps forward, drops tool, salutes) Just like a tool belt, the Belt of Truth keeps the things we need close to us. It keeps everything we know about God in order.

Hart: Thank you, Stacy. Private Goode, get this kid a tool belt.

JB: (steps forward, drops the tool, salutes.) Sir, yes sir! (Runs off stage, returns a moment later and hands Ivan a tool belt.)

(Ivan puts on the belt and gives a thumbs up.)

Hart: (turning to and speaking to the audience) Remember soldiers, to put on the Belt of Truth, we must memorize the Bible and the Good News about Jesus, so we can:

All: WIN AGAINST SIN!

Hart: (barking the order) Dismissed!

(Privates march off stage. Sergeant follows.)

Day Two Obstacle Course: Water Wars

Materials:

- Water balloons. Lots and lots of water balloons. The longer you want the war to last, the more balloons you should have.
- Buckets to hold full water balloons. Each platoon should have access to their own bucket.
- Towels so the kids can dry off.
- Name tags for each child. Have a different color for each platoon.

Process:

- All platoons are pitted against each other. Have privates put their nametags on so everyone can see which team they belong to.
- Arrange teams around outer edge of field. Put their bucket of water balloons in front of them. They can only get balloons from their bucket.
- Explain that only shots to the chest count. If a shirt covers it, it can be hit. Don't aim for the face, and legs don't matter. Only the chest, where your vital organs are. Remember, no name calling. Play nice.
- Blow the whistle and let them go. Join in too if you like.
- The game is over when you run out of balloons. There really is no winner, unless by some miracle, one platoon has one or more players who manage not to get wet.
- Dry off before going into small group time. (You can do this during the break.)

Day Two Weaponry: T-Shirts of Righteousness

Materials:

- One grey t-shirt per child
- fabric paint and fabric markers
- stick-on appliqués
- a piece of cardboard to put inside the shirt so the paint won't bleed through to the other side.

Process:

- Have each child write his or her name on the inside collar.
- Decorate the shirt with Bible verses and symbols to remind yourself about righteousness and living righteously.
- Lay them flat to dry.

Tara Merrill

Skit Day Two: The Breastplate of Righteousness

Setting: Sandbags and other such things to hide behind on the stage. Play Mission Impossible music if you want.

The privates are sneaking around the stage with big water guns. Everyone but Ivan has on a garbage bag or poncho. They all get shot by one another, but none of them get wet because they are protected. Everyone, that is, except Ivan. He gets soaked. They continue the water gun fight until Sgt Hart blows his whistle and walks onto the stage. The privates put down their water guns and stand in a line at attention.

Hart: (walking onto stage) Good job, soldiers that was excellent shooting and you all were well protect- (stops in front of Ivan, who looks nervous.) Private Issue, where is your protective gear?

Ivan: I um, I forgot? My dog ate it? I overslept? What's protective gear?

Hart: I don't want to hear your excuses soldier. Don't you know how important your armor is?

Ivan: It's only water gun fight, how big of a deal is it? It's not like I'm in any real danger. (pauses, then asks nervously,) Right?

Hart: Wright! Explain to Issue here why he needs his breastplate.

Aimee: (steps forward, salutes) He should wear a breastplate because it would protect his heart and other vital organs in a real battle. (steps back into line)

Ivan: But when am I going to ever be in a real battle?

Stacy: You are always in a battle. A battle with Satan. Every day he tries to get you to sin and to stop following God. He wants to turn our hearts to him.

JB: That's why God tells us to put on the Breastplate of Righteousness. If we fight to be right with God and do what His Word tells us to do, then the Breastplate of Righteousness will keep sin from entering our hearts and keep us pure.

Hart: That's a good explanation of the Breastplate of Righteousness, soldiers. (Turning to the audience) We put on the Breastplate of Righteousness but doing what God's Word says, so we can:

All: WIN AGAINST SIN!

Hart: Dismissed! (privates march off stage.)

Day Three Obstacle Course: Shoe Soup

Materials:

- Children wearing tennis shoes.
- A big empty area to play in.

Procedure:

- Have all the privates take off one shoe and put it in a pile in the middle of the field.
- Stand in a huge circle around the shoes.
- On your signal, all the kids must find someone else's shoe.
- They now have to find the person to whom the shoe belongs. Once they find that person, they put the shoe on for them and find out two interesting things about that person. Tell them two interesting facts about yourself.
- Let someone put your shoe on you and ask you for two interesting facts. Get two facts about them.
- Once everyone has their own shoes on, ask a couple of privates what they learned about the two people they met.

Day Three Weaponry: Shoelaces of the Gospel of Peace

Materials:

- A pair of cotton shoelaces per child
- Permanent Markers
- Table cloth to keep area clean. The markers do bleed through the shoelaces.

Process:

- Write kid's names on one side of each shoelace. Somewhere near the middle so it won't show when you tie them.
- Decorate the shoelaces however you want to help remind you to lace up and prepare to go out into the world and share the Gospel.
- Leave the shoelaces in a designated place to be taken home on Friday.

Tara Merrill

Skit Day Three: Shoes of the Gospel of Peace

Setting: Have an obstacle course set up on the stage. Just a small one will do, but make sure it is varied enough to show the privates who run in do different things. Like run through tires, jump sandbags, or climb a wall.

Open with Hart standing behind the obstacle course. The girls are standing next to him and JB is lined up in front of the obstacle course tying his tennis shoes. Ivan comes running onto the stage wearing galoshes. He lines up next to JB, ready to race him.

Ivan: (a little out of breath) I'm here, I'm here! Let's race!

Hart: (rolls his eyes) On your mark, get set, GO!

The boys take off running. The girls cheer them both on. JB does well, but poor Ivan trips over everything. It is apparent that his shoes are making it hard for him to run. JB finishes first and Ivan finally stumbles across the finish line, completely out of breath.

Hart: (pats JB on the back) Great job, Private Goode. Go join the girls. Now Private Issue, you want to explain to me just what was going on out there? What's with the galoshes?

Ivan: (smiling, but still panting some) Well Sergeant, I was just making a fashion statement. Galoshes are all the rage this season. (shows off his shoes)

Hart: This is God's Army, soldier. Since when do soldiers care about fashion statements? Now how are you supposed to be an effective runner with footgear like that?

Stacy: Ya, Ivan. Those shoes were really slowing you down. You would have done a lot better if you had the right kind of shoe on.

Aimee: This is not the place to show off cool shoes. Remember, our job as warriors for Christ is to run the Good News of salvation to as many people as we meet.

Ivan: I can do that in galoshes.

JB: Sure, you can talk about Jesus while wearing galoshes, but you can't run a race. When the Bible says put on our feet the preparation that comes with the Gospel of peace, it means we need to be ready to share the Gospel at any time.

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Stacy: It also means that if we know the Good News about Jesus, we need to be ready to run away from sin. If we are prepared, then we can be at peace.

Ivan: Oh, I get it! So to be a good Christian soldier, I need to be ready to share Jesus with everyone.

Hart: That's right soldier. The shoes of the Gospel of peace allow us to take the Gospel everywhere with speed so everyone can:

All: WIN AGAINST SIN!

Hart: Dismissed!

Day Four Obstacle Course: Faith Ball

Materials:

- Gator balls, Koosh balls, or Nerf Balls. A bunch of soft balls to throw at the children.
- One tennis racket per child.

Process:

- Line the privates up along a wall outside. Be sure it's one without windows. Give each private a tennis racket.
- Before you start, discuss different struggles they may have, like doubting God loves them. More of this will be covered in small group discussion, for now, just have them understand they all have weaknesses. Assure the kids that you don't mean the mean things you'll be saying, that it is just part of the game.
- All the teachers take the balls and throw them at the kids. Be careful how you aim. Avoid the face.
- The kids use the tennis rackets to keep the balls from hitting them.
- Shout out different doubts the kids could struggle with as you throw the balls. Things like, "thief! You stole that pen from your friend!" Or, "I know you cheated on your math test!" Or you can just call out "liar, cheater," and such if it's too noisy to hear full sentences. Be sure you keep the struggles age appropriate.
- The point is the rackets act like the shield of faith as you fend off doubts.
- If a kid is hit, they are out. The last man standing wins. Try to get every child though, for purposes of the discussion.

Day Four Weaponry: Shields of Faith

Materials:

- One shield per child
- Tempera paints
- Paint brushes
- Water cups to rinse brushes
- Paper towels to dry brushes
- Table cloths to protect areas

Process:

- Have privates write their names on the back of the shields.
- Write verses and phrases on the shields to remind yourself of faith and how to overcome any doubts you may have.
- Decorate the shield as you wish.

Tara Merrill

Skit Day Four: The Shield of Faith

Setting: Have the same set up of sandbags from Tuesday. Aimee, JB and Stacy all have different sized shields. Ivan does not have one. They all come onto stage, kind of sneaking around, like they are looking for someone. Sergeant Hart jumps onto stage and starts throwing colorful paper balls at the privates. They use their shields to protect themselves. The bigger the shield, the less they get hit. So Ivan gets pummeled of course. He tries to use his hands to protect himself, but they don't do any good. After a brief defensive skirmish, the sergeant calls them in.

Hart: All right, soldiers. Bring it in. (They all come forward, still holding their shields.) That was good defense there. You all used your shields to effectively protect yourselves from my attacks. Except you, Ivan. Now, why weren't you using a shield?

Ivan: Oh, I don't need one. I've got my awesome ninja skills to protect me. Hi-ya! (Tries a fancy karate move, but fails. Other privates laugh.)

Hart: I see. (Turns to JB, who has the biggest shield,) JB! Tell Private Issue why he needs a shield.

JB: (turning to Ivan) Dude, you got destroyed out there. If you had a shield, you wouldn't have gotten hit so many times.

Ivan: Paper can't hurt me though.

Stacy: Paper can't, but Satan's arrows sure can. He tries to shoot you with arrows of doubt in places he knows you are weak.

Aimee: That's why in God's army we carry the Shield of Faith. We can move it to protect areas in our life where we doubt God. The more faith you have, the bigger your shield and the safer you will be from Satan's attacks.

Ivan: Cool! Where do I get this shield?

JB: It isn't something you can go buy. The shields we used for our game today aren't real shields of faith, they are just toys. You can only get the real shield of faith by praying to God everyday and asking Him to help you believe in His faithful promises.

Hart: That's right, soldiers. Let's all go pray together to strengthen our Shields of Faith so we can:

All: WIN AGAINST SIN!

Hart: Dismissed!

Day Five Obstacle Course: Take a Swing at Temptation

Materials:

- One large plastic bat per platoon.
- Ping pong balls with a different temptation written on each one.
- A net or a line drawn out to mark “out of the ball park.” Do this for each platoon.
- Plastic coins.
- Candy or other sort of prize.

Procedure:

- Each platoon competes against itself.
- The drill sergeant is the pitcher. The private up to bat must hit the ping pong ball into the net or designated area three times in a row or they are out. They only get three tries.
- Make this hard enough that no one can really succeed. The point is they need to see how much they need a Savior, because when it comes to life, they cannot win on their own.
- After everyone has tried and failed, offer everyone a second chance. Say that they can win this game no matter how much they miss as long as they ask for a coin. Don't force them to take it, if they don't want one, they don't have to take a coin. This time, give them each a coin. This represents their salvation. If they have this coin, it doesn't matter if they hit the ball or not. They still win. They still get the prize. For those that didn't get a coin, give them a third chance after they understand the point.
- **STRONGLY** emphasize that true salvation cannot be lost. The coin only represents salvation for the purpose of the game, but trust in Jesus Christ is the only way to really win.
- This is the perfect time to share the Gospel with your children. Take the time to answer their questions about Christ and if necessary, lead them to Christ.

Day Five Weaponry: Hats of Salvation and Swords of the Spirit

Materials:

- Sword pages collected from this week
- Sword covers (made from poster board. A front and back. Cut out in advance.)
- Hats. One per child.
- Fabric markers and fabric paint
- Permanent markers
- Glue and a Stapler

Procedure:

- Decorate the hats with reminders of salvation.
- Assemble the sword pages into a book form and staple them together at the bottom.
- Glue together the covers, leaving room as a folder to insert the pages.

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Skit Day Five: Helmet of Salvation and the Sword of the Spirit

Setting: The stage is empty, but you do need some props. All the actors will need a stick horse (which can be made out of brooms and construction paper), helmets, and Bibles. For helmets, try to find hockey helmets, motorcycle or bicycle helmets, or football helmets. Heavy duty helmets are key here. Tie the Bibles up with rope and then hang the rope around each actors' shoulder, like the Bible is in a sheath. It needs to be easily accessible.

Hart: (from off stage) Charge!!!!!!!!!!

Everyone comes galloping onto stage on stick horses, with Hart up front. Everyone except Ivan is wearing a helmet with their Bibles hanging at their sides. They should also have on tool belts, ponchos and tennis shoes. Hang the shields off their backs, so they are in full "armor." The privates ride in screaming. They all line up in the middle of the stage and Hart gallops in front of them to check out their armor. He can make comments on each private, like, "tighten that helmet, soldier." He stops at Ivan, who is at the end of the line. Ivan has on tennis shoes, a shield, a tool belt, and a poncho, but he has no helmet or Bible.

Hart: Ivan, did you forget anything?

Ivan: Well, I slept in, so I didn't get breakfast this morning.

Hart: Anything else? (When Ivan looks confused and doesn't respond, Hart turns to Aimee.) Wright, what is your friend here missing.

Aimee: He needs to put on a helmet so his head doesn't get hurt in the battle we're riding into.

Hart: Good job, Private Wright. Private Moore, anything else?

Stacy: (looking over at Ivan) Where is your sword?

Ivan: (a little defensively) Well, you don't have one either!

Hart: soldiers, show Ivan your swords. (The privates hold up their Bibles.)

Ivan: Oh... well why did you say I needed a sword if I needed a Bible, and what about the helmets?

JB: The Helmet and Sword are two of the most important pieces of armor. They help us get better at using the other pieces of armor.

Aimee: The helmet represents salvation. That means that if you believe in Jesus Christ and choose to follow him, then he helps you change the way you think about the world, so you can see things how Jesus wants you to see them.

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Stacy: And the Sword of the Spirit is the Word of God, or the Bible. We should take our Bibles with us everywhere, so we can look up Scripture when we need a fast answer. If we memorize the Bible and learn how to look things up in it, it makes it really hard for Satan to attack us.

JB: Ya, and if you wear the Helmet of Salvation, it can never come off, no matter how much you sin. It will protect the way you think for your whole life.

Ivan: Wow, I've been in Bible Boot Camp all week and never saw it like that. What do I need to do to put on the Helmet of Salvation?

JB: All you have to do is remember your ABC's.

Ivan: That's easy. (Starts singing) A, B, C, D, E, F, G...

Aimee: No, not those ABC's, the ABC's of Salvation. A is for admit that you are a sinner and can't get to Heaven on your own.

Stacy: B is for believe that Jesus Christ died for your sins, even though he never did anything wrong in his life. He just died on the cross because he loves you.

JB: C is for confess your sins to Jesus. Tell him that you know you have done wrong, but you want him to help you stop sinning and come live in your heart forever.

Hart: D is for do it today! There is never a better time to come to Jesus Christ than right now!

Ivan: I want to do that! I want to come to Jesus right now!

JB: Come with me, and I will pray with you! (JB and Ivan gallop off stage.)

Hart: (choking up with tears) I'm so proud! This week, everyone has learned to use their Bibles as useful swords against our enemy Satan, and now Ivan gets to put on his own Helmet of Salvation! Together with the Belt of Truth, Breastplate of Righteousness, Shoes of the Gospel of Peace, and Shield of Faith, these pieces of spiritual armor help us to:

All: WIN AGAINST SIN!

Hart: Dismissed! (everyone gallops off stage.)

The Battle Continues... Families fight together.

Day One: Introduction and the Belt of Truth

Thank you for participating with your child in Bible Boot Camp this week! Unity is vital to warfare. Ephesians 4:1-3 calls us to be united in everything we do:

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

We appreciate the effort you put in to growing closer to our Lord Jesus Christ. This example shines for your child. Please enjoy doing this small study with your family each night to help reinforce the lessons your child learns each day. Be sure to read what's coming next and prepare accordingly.

Today we introduced the Armor of God, as found in Ephesians 6:11-18. Your child is expected to have Ephesians 6:11 memorized by the end of the week. Feel free to memorize it along with them:

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

We had fruit roll ups as a snack and played a game called “Leaps and Bounds.” We also made cloth tool belts and worked on our activity books.

As a family, discuss the following questions and read the following verses:

- Read Ephesians 6:11-18
- Why is it important to know and “wear” the armor of God?
- Name all six pieces of armor.
- What is truth?
- How do the world and Christians view truth differently?
- What do tool belts do?
- Why is truth represented as a Roman soldier’s belt?
- How can you as a family practice putting on the Belt of Truth?
- Pray as a family.

Tomorrow send your child with a swim suit under their clothes so they can participate in the physical training activity. It would also be helpful if you sent a towel with them too. We will be discussing the Breastplate of Righteousness. Snack will be heart shaped sugar cookies. If you can, please send nonperishable food items with your child for our service project.

The Battle Continues... Families fight together.

Day Two: The Breastplate of Righteousness.

Righteousness is Christian lingo that often makes non-Christians feel excluded and uncomfortable. All righteousness really means is being RIGHT with GOD. Psalm 119:9-11 gives us an idea on how we can do that:

How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according your word. With my whole heart I seek you; let me not wander from your commandments! I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.

As a family, discuss this passage of Scripture and what it has to do with righteousness. Here are some guiding questions:

- What is righteousness?
- What do we do to stay in a right standing with God?
- What does a breastplate protect?
- Why would a breastplate be used to represent righteousness?
- What are you going to do as a family to continue to strive for righteousness?
- Work on memorizing Ephesians 6:11
- Pray as a family.

Today we had a water balloon fight for our physical activity. This was to teach the young soldiers that it is important to protect your heart from being hit, because in this spiritual war we're in, Satan likes to aim for the heart. Righteousness protects our heart and helps us stay pure from sin. We also made t-shirts to represent breastplates and ate heart shaped sugar cookies to remind us to protect our hearts from sin.

Tomorrow we will discuss the preparation that comes with the shoes of the Gospel of peace. Our snack will be pretzels, because they look like knotted up shoelaces. Be sure your child is in tennis shoes for tomorrow's game! If you can, please send nonperishable food items with your child for our service project.

Thank you again for building a strong family in the name of the Lord!

The Battle Continues... Families fight together.

Day Three: Readiness and the Shoes of the Gospel of Peace

This is a pretty big topic to cover in one day! In a nutshell, today was all about evangelism. Gospel means good news. The good news is that Jesus came and lived a perfect life, then he was murdered for our wrongdoing. Three days later, he came back to life and ascended into Heaven. Because of these events, we can have eternal life in Heaven. This should fill us with an abounding sense of peace. Together, read John 16:33 and 1 Peter 3:15. Discuss the following questions as a family.

John 16:33

I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.

1 Peter 3:15

But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect.

- What is the Gospel, and why does it bring us peace?
- Why does preparation go on our feet?
- What are we called to be prepared for?
- How will your family prepare to share the Gospel with others?
- Work on memorizing Ephesians 6:11
- Pray as a family.

Today we did a physical activity in which we all put a shoe in a pile, then we found someone else's shoe and helped them put it on while we asked them questions about themselves. This game helped us learn service and putting others first. We had pretzels for a snack and decorated shoelaces.

Tomorrow we will discuss the Shield of Faith. Our snack will be Rice Krispy treats because they resemble shields. Make sure your child is wearing clothes that you don't mind being ruined we will be painting tomorrow. If you can, please send nonperishable food items with your child for our service project.

The Battle Continues... Families fight together.

Day Four: The Shield of Faith

By now, I'm sure your little soldier is getting tired from a long and challenging week. Don't worry, there's only one more day to go. Thank you for your ongoing commitment to Bible Boot Camp. Today we discussed the Shield of Faith and its ability to move and cover weaknesses we have in our lives. Nehemiah 9:30-33 gives a different view of righteousness:

Many years you bore with them and warned them by your Spirit through your prophets. Yet they would not give ear. Therefore you gave them into the hand of the peoples of the lands. Nevertheless, in your great mercies you did not make an end of them or forsake them, for you are a gracious and merciful God.

Now, therefore, our God, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God, who keeps covenant and steadfast love, let not all the hardship seem little to you that has come upon us, upon our kings, our princes, our priests, our prophets, our fathers, and all your people, since the time of the kings of Assyria until this day. Yet you have been righteous in all that has come upon us, for you have dealt faithfully and we have acted wickedly.

- What is the common understanding of faith?
- How does these verses show a different side to faith?
- What makes the shield different from the other pieces of armor?
- Why would faith be represented by a shield?
- What are some fears and doubts you and your family face?
- How can the Shield of Faith help you overcome that?

Today our physical activity was a form of dodge ball. The children used shields to protect themselves as we through balls at them. The point was to show how a shield moves to protect weaknesses. We had Rice Krispy squares as a snack and decorated poster board shields.

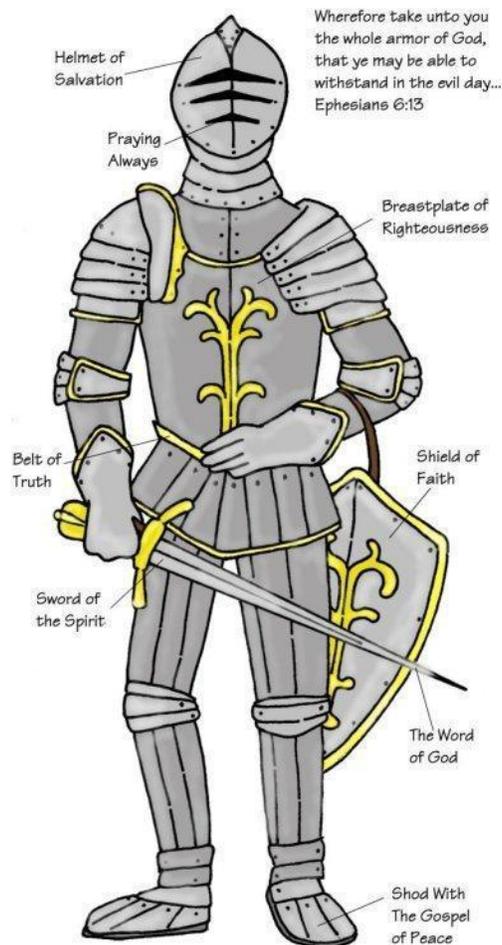
Tomorrow we will cover a lot of ground so make sure your child gets a good night's sleep. We will discuss the Helmet of Salvation and the Sword of the Spirit. The snack will be trail mix, so please let our staff know if your child has nut allergies so we can make accommodations. If you can, please send nonperishable food items with your child for our service project.

The Battle Continues... Families fight together.

Day Five: Helmet of Salvation and the Sword of the Spirit

You made it! The last day of Bible Boot Camp has come to a close. Thank you for the support you have provided for your child this week. Please enjoy this final family worksheet and please practice “putting on the armor of God” every day.

- Discuss the nature of salvation with your family. Belief in Jesus Christ and commitment to Him is vital to a happy, healthy family. Pray for your family and their salvation.
- Ask your child to go through all the pieces of armor that they made and explain what they represent.
- Why is salvation a helmet? Can this helmet ever come off?
- Why is the Word of God called a sword?
- Take time everyday to pray and read the Bible with your children.



**"Put on the full
armor of God,
so that you
will be able to
stand firm against
the schemes of
the devil."**

~Ephesians 6:11

Congratulations on finishing Bible Boot Camp!

