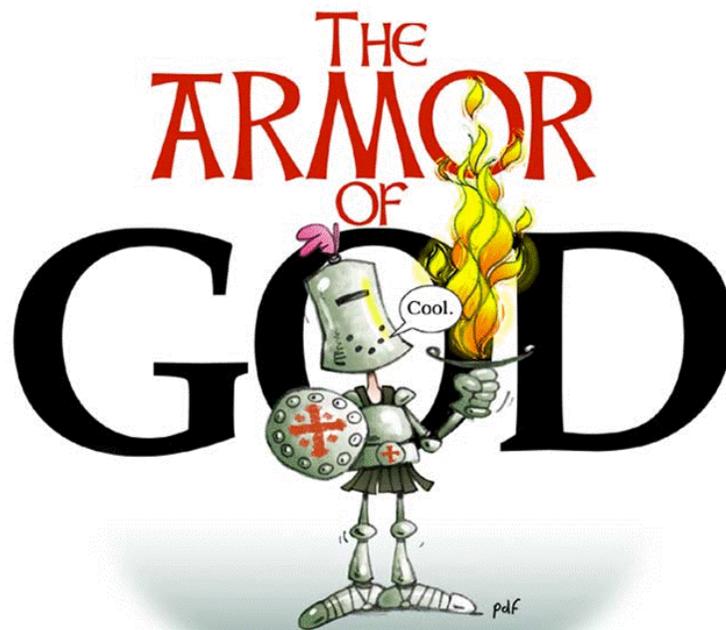


BIBLE BOOT CAMP

Ephesians 6:11-18

Summer 2009

Teacher's Handbook



Unit Overview

This week we will learn how to be warriors for God. Paul tells us in Ephesians that we are caught in the middle of a spiritual war. He doesn't tell us this to scare us, but to prepare us for life's everyday battles. As teachers we are responsible for leading children in this war by showing them how to use the tools God has given us to fight a spiritual battle. These tools are laid out in Ephesians 6:11-18. This week children will learn how to "put on the full armor of God" by participating in discussions, playing games, making "armor," praying and reading their Bibles. This week pray that the Lord would open your heart to better understand spiritual armor and give you the wisdom and patience to lead His children. To put a fun spin on this theme, the children are attending a sort of spiritual "boot camp" instead of your ordinary VBS. They are privates in God's army, and you will be their drill sergeants, who strive to lead them closer and closer to our General, Jesus.

Every day will follow the same general pattern:

1. Check in
2. Pray as a group
3. Read day's Scripture and discuss it
4. Recite power verse together
5. Musical worship
6. Outdoor game
7. Water/snack break
8. Discussion of Scripture in small group
9. Activity Book
10. Craft
11. Small group wrap-up, skit and prayer

Be sure to pray for your individual students everyday! They look to you as a leader in the Faith, so with the faith of a child spend time with God reacquainting yourself with this familiar passage of Scripture. Above all, enjoy this time you have to serve God and his children!

Day One: Introduction and the Belt of Truth

TEACHER PREPARATION:

Before coming to “Boot Camp,” spend some time in individual prayer specifically focusing on the day at hand, the lesson and your children. Come before Jesus as an empty vessel. Read and meditate Ephesians 6:11-18 and John 14:6. Think about how the world and the Church view Truth differently. Go over what you will say with the children and how you will guide them through each activity. Be sure you understand the big idea so you can pass it on to your group. Gather all necessary materials for today’s activities and do day one’s activities in your own activity book. Meet and pray with other teachers before getting started. Have fun!

BIG IDEA: 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.

LARGE GROUP TIME: *(The master sergeant will be in charge.)*

Welcome the kids to Boot Camp and get everyone signed in with name tags. Make sure every private (child) finds their drill sergeant (teacher). This will take a little longer today since it is the first day.

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. This knowledge of God that we have helps to keep all the other pieces of armor together. It's our storage place for knowledge of God. 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.

Music worship. Choose songs that are high energy with easy lyrics. Be sure to display the lyrics on an overhead so kids can follow along.

SMALL GROUP TIME:

Go directly to the **outdoor game**, Leaps and Bounds.

Materials:

- True or false questions and answers (included in the back of your packet.)
- 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.

Water break/snack break. Serve Fruit Roll-Ups today as they resemble belts. Make sure every child drinks at least one cup of water.

Platoons (small groups) **discuss** Scripture and how the game applies to the Belt of Truth. **Say:** So did you all have fun with today's game? What do you think it had to do with today's lesson? (Allow time for students to respond.) You had to know the answers to the questions in order to win the game. You had to know if what I was telling you was true. Can you think of a situation in your life where you might need to know if what someone is telling you is true or not? (Allow time for students to respond.) What if someone said to you, "Jesus isn't the only way to get to Heaven," what would you say? (Allow responses.) A Bible verse we'll look at today is John 14:6 where Jesus says, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." We know that this is the truth. So through reading our Bibles every day, we learn how to put on the Belt of Truth. If we put on the Belt of Truth and get to know the Bible really well, it will be harder for Satan to lie to us.

Have the privates **complete** the day one pages in the activity book. Help and guide as necessary. Leave the books at church in a designated area so they won't get lost.

Make Tool Belts of Truth. Have kids leave their belt. All pieces of armor will be taken home on Friday.

Materials:

- A canvas tool belt for each child
- Permanent markers
- Table cloths
- tracts

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 a few tracts in one of the pockets

LARGE GROUP TIME:

Wrap up with a large group discussion to be sure the children understand what they learned. Ask them how they will apply it to their lives.

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

TEACHER PREPARATION:

Get a good night's sleep for today's game and dress appropriately for getting soaked in water balloons. Pray for the needs and things you learned about your children yesterday. Read and meditate on Ephesians 6:11-18 and Deuteronomy 6:25. Do the activities for day two. Think about the nature of righteousness and how it is obtained. What is your role in your own righteousness? Gather today's materials. Go over what you will say today and be sure you understand the big ideas. Meet and pray with the other volunteers.

BIG IDEA: 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.

LARGE GROUP TIME: *(The master sergeant will be in charge.)*

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.

Music worship. Choose songs that are high energy with easy lyrics. Be sure to display the lyrics on an overhead so kids can follow along.

SMALL GROUP TIME:

Go directly to the **outdoor game**, 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.)

Water/snack break. Serve heart shaped sugar cookies along with the water to remind the kids to protect their hearts from Satan's attacks.

Platoon **discussion** of Scripture and how the game applies to the Breastplate of Righteousness. **Say**, Today's game was pretty fun, wasn't it? Water balloon fights are great, but what does this have to do with the Breastplate of

Righteousness? (Allow students to respond.) Well, in our water war, only shots to the chest counted. That's where all your vital organs are. When Satan tries to attack our righteousness, he aims to kill. We can't live without our heart functioning, so that's where he hits us. He tries to turn our hearts to him and away from Jesus. When we wear the Breastplate of Righteousness, it means we are working hard to protect our hearts from this sort of attack by focusing on what God wants us to do. If we look at Psalm 119:9-11, we see how King David fought to follow God's plan for righteousness. (Read Psalm 119:9-11 together.) So what does this passage of Scripture mean for us? (Allow students to respond.) It means that in order to not sin against God, in order to stay righteous with Him, we need to memorize Scripture and do what it says. We need to give everything we are to following God.

Have the privates **complete** the day two pages in the activity book. Help and guide as necessary. Leave the books at church.

Make T-Shirts of Righteousness. Have kids leave their shirt to dry. All pieces of armor will be taken home on Friday.

Materials:

- One grey t-shirt per child
- fabric paint and fabric markers
- 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.

LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION:

Wrap up with a large group discussion to be sure the children understand what they learned. Ask them how they will apply today's lesson to their daily lives.

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 sin.. 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

TEACHER PREPARATION:

Continue to pray for your children as you learn more about them. Read and meditate on Ephesians 6:11-18, John 16:33 and 1 Peter 3:15. Fill out day three's activities in your book. Go out and find peace with God just spend time in silence with Him. Reflect on how He has brought you peace and how you have brought and can bring it others. What role does evangelism play in your life? Gather today's materials. Think about today's big idea and how you will introduce it to the kids. Meet and pray with the other volunteers

BIG IDEA: 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.

LARGE GROUP TIME: *(The master sergeant will be in charge.)*

Once everyone has **signed in, 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.*"

Music worship. Choose songs that are high energy with easy lyrics. Be sure to display the lyrics on an overhead so kids can follow along.

SMALL GROUP TIME:

Go directly to the **outdoor game**, Shoe Soup.

Materials:

- Children wearing tennis shoes.

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.

Water/snack break. Serve pretzels. They are like little knotted up shoelaces.

Platoon **discussion** of Scripture and how the game applies to being prepared and the shoes of the gospel of peace. **Say** did you all enjoy getting to know people in our game? Was it hard to find the person and return their shoe to them? (Allow students time to respond.) Why do you think we had you find a person and then get to know them? How does this relate to the Shoes of the Gospel of Peace? (Allow students time to respond.) As Christians, we are supposed to tell people about Jesus Christ. We are supposed to go into the world and tell everyone we meet about the Good News. This game showed us that we must go to people and first listen to what they have to say before we say what we want to. We also have to serve people we meet. That's why we put their shoes on for them. Review the ABC's of salvation. It's a basic way to remember the Gospel. Accept that you're a sinner, Believe Jesus Christ died for your sins, Confess your sins to Him, and Do it today.

Have the privates **complete** the day three pages in the activity book. Help and guide as necessary. Leave the books at church.

Make Shoelaces of the Gospel of Peace. Have kids leave their shoelaces in a designated place. All pieces of armor will be taken home on Friday.

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.

LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION:

Wrap up with a large group discussion to be sure the children understand what they learned. Ask them how they will apply today's lesson to their daily lives.

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: Shield of Faith

TEACHER PREPARATION:

Continue to pray for your children as you learn more about them. Pray that they would continue to enjoy the lessons they gain this week and that they would have the energy to make it through the next two days of camp. Read and meditate on Ephesians 6:11-18 and Hebrews 11:3. Think of situations in your life where God has been faithful to you and when you have shown faith in his promises. Read Nehemiah 9:33. How great it is to think that the LORD is always faithful to us, even when we are not always faithful to Him. Praise His name that He is so faithful! Think of this verse when you consider the Shield of Faith. God's undying faith is what protects us from the fiery arrows of the evil one. Prepare what you will say to your students and be sure you understand the Big Idea. Fill out day four's activities in your book. Gather today's materials. Meet and pray with the other volunteers.

BIG IDEA: We all have sins and weaknesses in our lives with which we struggle. Sometimes we just fall apart 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.

LARGE GROUP TIME: *(The master sergeant will be in charge.)*

Sign in and 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 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.

Music worship. Choose songs that are high energy with easy lyrics. Be sure to display the lyrics on an overhead so kids can follow along.

SMALL GROUP TIME:

Go directly to the **outdoor game**, 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.

Water/snack break. Serve Rice Krispy Squares today.

Platoon **discussion** of Scripture and how the game applies to the Shield of Faith. **Say**, So how does it feel to have your drill sergeant throwing things at you? How did it feel when you got out? (Allow students to respond.) It doesn’t feel good to lose, does it? Did it make it harder that we were shouting different doubts at you? Was it harder to concentrate? (Allow students to respond.) Why do you think we were shouting, “liar, cheater, nobody loves you,” and things like that at you? Did we really mean it? (Allow students to respond.) Satan does the same thing to us. He whispers cruel things to us to try to get us to turn away from God, to doubt God, or to sin. Sometimes the other pieces of armor just aren’t enough to protect us from these things. So what do you think the tennis racket represented? (Allow students to respond.) That one’s easy. In our game, the tennis racket was like the Shield of Faith, so while you may have heard the mean things, if your shield was in place, then you weren’t hit by them. But what happened when your shield wasn’t in place? (Allow students to respond.) That’s right, you got hit. So do you all see why it’s important to have the Shield of Faith?

Have the privates **complete** the day four pages in the activity book. Help and guide as necessary. Leave the books at church.

Make Shields of Faith. Have kids leave their shields to dry. All pieces of armor will be taken home on Friday.

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.

LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION:

Wrap up with a large group discussion to be sure the children understand what they learned. Ask them how they will apply today's lesson to their daily lives.

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 the last day of Bible Boot Camp?

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

TEACHER PREPARATION:

Continue to pray for your children as we come into the last day of Bible Boot Camp. Read Ephesians 6:11-18, Isaiah 12:2, and 2 Timothy 3:16. As we have discovered this week, this world is full of trials and tribulations. How great it is to know that we have victory in Jesus Christ! Praise the Lord that He has become our strength. Thank Him for the gift of His Word to guide us through our difficult times in life. Thank God for your salvation and the chance to serve His children this week. Your service is recognized and appreciated. Fill out day three's activities in your book. Gather today's materials. Be sure you understand the Big Idea and know how you will present it to your students. Think about how you will review the lessons of this week with them today. Meet and pray with the other volunteers. There is a lot to cover today, so pray that you have ample time to give enough time to everything.

BIG IDEA: 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.

LARGE GROUP TIME: *(The master sergeant will be in charge.)*

Sign in and 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.

Music worship. Choose songs that are high energy with easy lyrics. Be sure to display the lyrics on an overhead so kids can follow along.

SMALL GROUP TIME:

Go directly to the **outdoor game**, 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.

Water/snack break: Serve trail mix today. It's been a long week and the private could probably use the protein boost. Be sure to have an alternative snack to provide if anyone in your group has nut allergies.

Platoon **discussion** of Scripture and how the game applies to the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit. **Say,** It's been a long week, but we've saved the best for last. The decision to give our lives to Christ is the most important decision we can ever make. How did you feel when you thought you had lost the game and had no chance to get a prize? (Allow students time to answer.) Then how did it feel when you found out that no matter how many times you failed, you still got the prize? That's kind of how it works with salvation. No matter how many times we mess up, God still accepts us as long as we follow Him. Now this is very important. If anyone here has not let Jesus into their lives, I want you to talk to me before the end of the day. I can lead you in a prayer to accept Jesus into your lives, which is true salvation. Now what about the Sword of the Spirit? First of all, what Spirit is it talking about? (Allow students to answer.) That's right, the Holy Spirit of God. This Spirit is what comes to live in us when we get saved.

The Spirit helps us understand the Bible when we read it. The Holy Spirit is what gives us the ability to use the Sword. Why is it important to memorize the Bible? (Allow students to answer.) It allows us to prove that what Satan tells us is wrong. That's why we memorized a Bible verse this week and that's why we learned how to look up Bible verses. So let's complete the last pages in our activity books.

Have the privates **complete** the day five pages in the activity book. Help and guide as necessary. The books can now be sent home with the students.

Make Helmets of Salvation and assemble the Swords.

Materials:

- Sword pages collected from this week
- Sword covers (made from poster board. A front and back.)
- Hats. One per child.
- Fabric markers and fabric paint
- Permanent markers
- glue
- 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.

Have kids leave their hats and to dry. All pieces of armor will be taken home at the end of the day.

LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION:

Wrap up with a large group discussion to be sure the children understand what they learned this week. Ask them how they will apply today's lesson and the lessons of the week to their daily lives.

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

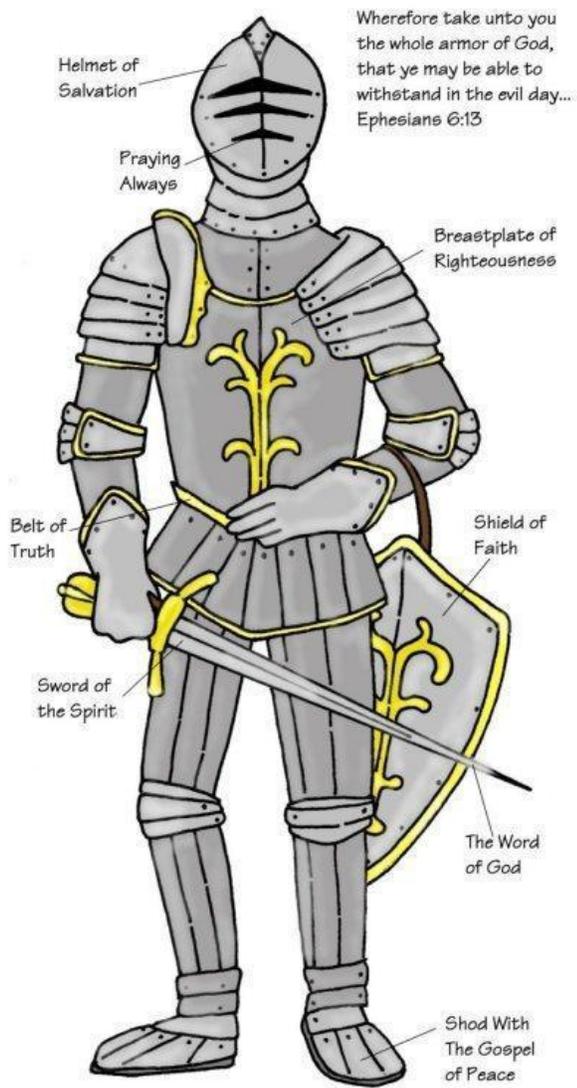
your Son to die for us so we can win over sin. It's in your name we pray. Amen."

Send home notes about the end of Bible Boot Camp with every child.

AFTERWARDS:

Meet with all volunteers to pray and discuss the day's happenings. What did you learn about your students this week? How can you improve upon VBS for next summer and what worked very well? How will you personally use what you learned this week to improve your relationship with God and with others?

Thank you for taking the time this week to serve His children!



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.