

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO CONNECT

an activity that invites kids to share and collaborate with others while growing their understanding



Before kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for them. Thank God for giving us the armor of His Holy Spirit to stand strong against the enemy. Pray for protection around your group today as you discuss and engage with the truth that God empowers us to fight back against unseen forces. Ask God to clear your kids' minds of negative thoughts and bad attitudes so they can clearly hear from Him today.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Stand and Deliver
Armor of God
Ephesians 6:10-17

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Use what God has given you to stand strong.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.
Philippians 1:6, NIV

MONTHLY LIFE APP

Confidence—Learning to see yourself the way God sees you

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

EARLY ARRIVER

WHAT YOU NEED: Offering container and hand sanitizer

WHAT YOU DO:

- Welcome kids by name as they arrive.
- Invite any kid who brought an offering to put it in the offering container.
- Direct each kid to use one pump of hand sanitizer.
- Play "20 Questions."
- Think of an item that protects, but don't share it with the kids. Some suggestions are:
 - Raincoat
 - Jacket
 - Oven mitt
 - Umbrella
 - Boots
 - Eye goggles
 - Facemask
- Explain that the kids can take turns asking yes or no questions to guess the item, up to 20 total questions.
- Invite kids to take turns asking the questions.

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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO PLAY

an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and/or working as a group



ROLL THE ARMOR

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Armor Pieces" and "Soldier Poster" Activity Pages, large dice, tape

WHAT YOU DO:

- Divide the group into two teams.
- Give each team a die, a set of "Armor Pieces," a "Soldier Poster," and tape.
- Instruct the kids to roll the die, one at a time, and place the armor piece indicated by that number on the soldier.
- If a kid rolls a number that's already used, that kid passes the die to the next player.
- The first team to have a completely armored soldier, wins.

NOTE: Use the following as a conversation guide. Unpack the concepts of the armor of God and use the questions to engage kids in a discussion about how God gives us each piece to work together with the others to help us stand strong against the enemy.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"These are some well-prepared soldiers! Why do soldiers need armor? (to keep them safe; help them stand strong) The armor of God helps us to stand strong, too!

"Let's talk about the belt of truth. A belt keeps your whole armor together! God wants us to wear the belt of truth to make sure we know what's true. What is one thing that is true about God? (He is always with us. He loves us. He made us, etc.) Keep that truth around you, holding you together.

"The armor of godliness protects a soldier's vital organs—their lungs and heart! 'Godliness' is living in a way that honors God. God's armor of godliness keeps our hearts safe and helps control our actions even when we have big emotions! What are some ways you can live that honor God? (keeping your room clean without grumbling; being kind to your soccer teammate when they do something that makes the team lose the game; not sharing that bit of gossip about the kid in your neighborhood, etc.)

"The shoes of peace help us carry the good news of Jesus, everywhere we go! They help us bring the peace we have through Jesus because of the sacrifice He made for all of us when He died on the cross and rose from the dead.

"Our minds need help to stand strong, too! That's why we need the helmet of salvation. We all get thoughts that we don't necessarily want to follow—ideas to do something we know is wrong or we just want OUR way, no matter what. Has that ever happened to you? (Allow for discussion and be sensitive to kids

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(ROLL THE ARMOR, CONTINUED)

who might be struggling.) The helmet of salvation reminds us that Jesus loves and forgives us, and that we can follow Him even when we still struggle to think His way.

“God’s Word, the Bible, is like a sword. We can use it when we’re tempted to do something wrong or make an unwise choice. Do you know anything from the Bible that might help you make the wise choice? *(Prompt kids to quote our memory verse, that God is not finished with us and we can be confident He will help us.)*”

“We have the shield of faith to guide us. We know that God is with us and will help us. These pieces of armor will help you **use what God has given you to stand strong.**”

MADE TO IMAGINE

an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates concrete application through role-play and reenactment



*SUIT UP!

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Armor Cards" and "Scenarios" Activity Pages

WHAT YOU DO:

- Instruct kids to divide into groups of three.
- Direct the kids to sit facing each other while maintaining social distance.
- Give each team a set of the "Armor Cards."
- Ask the kids to lay the cards out on the floor between them.
- Explain that you will share a scenario and give them a moment to choose a piece of armor and talk about how that particular piece would protect them.
- As teams make their decision, they should hold up the "Armor Card" that applies to that situation.
- Briefly discuss why the kids feel it's the best piece of armor to use.
- Read the next scenario.
- As you wrap up the scenarios, explain that just like we wouldn't put on only a shirt or only our shoes when we get dressed in the morning, we don't use only one piece of the armor of God. We use all of it because we never know what situations we'll face. God wants us to put on all of His armor so we're prepared for whatever life throws our way.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

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NOTE: You know your kids the best. Some of the provided scenarios might cause stress or trauma depending on what your kids are going through. Use your discretion as to which scenarios to share with your group based on what you know about them and their home lives.

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Use what God has given you to stand strong.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Those were some pretty difficult scenarios to face. God doesn't want us to face difficult times alone. God loves you and is with you at all times! But that's not what the enemy wants you to believe. The enemy wants you to think you have to face everything alone. He is a liar.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

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"But Jesus is so strong that He defeated the enemy and won the battle when He rose from the dead! No one can defeat Jesus! Jesus knows exactly how to help us defend our relationship with Him and stand strong. That's why He gave us the armor of God. He wants you to always **use what God has given you to stand strong.**"

MONTHLY LIFE APP

Confidence—Learning to see yourself the way God sees you

[Make It Personal] (Share with your kids about a time you were tempted to doubt God or believe in a lie about yourself. How did the armor of God help you? How did it help you to stand strong?)

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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO MOVE

an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body



SWORD STICKS

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Chopsticks, assembled glow bracelets, Bibles

WHAT YOU DO:

- Set the glow bracelets in a haphazard pile in the middle of the small group circle.
- Give each kid a chopstick and assign them a color of bracelet. (If you have more kids than you have unique colors of bracelets, let them work in teams.)
- Instruct the kids to use their chopstick to pick up a bracelet of their assigned color.
- This will become more difficult once there is only one layer of bracelets on the floor.
- At that point, let kids push the bracelet against their shoes or knees to pick it up, let two kids work together, or give everyone another chopstick.
- The kid with the most bracelets of their color, wins.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"These little chopstick 'swords' helped you sort through this messy pile of bracelets to find what you needed.

"We learned today in Large Group that the Bible is a type of sword. (*Hand out the Bibles and ask kids to turn to Hebrews 4:12.*) What does this verse say that God's Word can do? (Invite responses: separate things) God's Word can help us separate what's good and bad, what we need in our lives and what we don't.

"Through the Bible, God gives us what we need to make the wise choice and stand strong in our faith, even when we're not sure how to do that ourselves. What verses do you know or have we learned this year that can help us with that? (*Pause for responses.*)

(*Ask kids to look up Philippians 1:6 together and read it out loud.*) "This is our memory verse for this month. It's part of the sword of the Spirit—God's Word! How can it help us stand strong? (*When we feel afraid or insecure, we can remember the truth that God is still working in us. We can have confidence in God's plan.*) Remembering and keeping our memory verse in your heart is one way you can **use what God has given you to stand strong.**"

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MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space
for personal processing
and application



PRAY AND DISMISS

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Armor Pieces" Activity Pages and armored soldier posters from "Roll the Armor" activity

WHAT YOU DO:

- Gather the group around the finished Soldier Posters from "Roll the Armor."
- Ask them to think about the pieces of armor they will need this week to stand strong.
 - The belt of truth to remember that God loves them and is with them
 - The helmet of salvation to follow Jesus's way instead of their own
 - The armor of godliness to protect their heart against big emotions like sadness, fear, or anger
 - The shoes of peace to live for God and share Jesus with others
 - The sword of God's Word to fight temptation
 - The shield of faith to follow Jesus even if others make fun of them or don't understand
- Allow some time for kids to share about how they think the armor of God might come into play for them this week.
- Then give each kid their own set of armor, reminding them to [Bottom Line] use what God has given you to stand strong.
- Close in prayer.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Dear God, thank You for the armor You give us so we can stand strong in following Jesus. Please help us use every piece to make the wise choice and live the way You want us to. Please help us stand strong in the truths of Your Word. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

As adults arrive to pick up, make sure kids take their armor with them. If you have extra oranges, send them home with the kids or set up the experiment so families can see one orange float and a peeled orange sink. Prompt the kids to explain that just like the orange, God has given us what we need to stand strong.

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