

GOOD NEWS BEARS CLUB

BIBLE DISCOVERY

"The Armor of God"

Recommended for: Preschool and Elementary

LESSON AIM: To teach the children how we can all be "victors" in Jesus.

MEMORY VERSE: *"With God we will gain the victory, and He will trample down our enemies." Psalms 60:12*

SUPPLIES: Coloring sheet with the memory verse printed near the top; art supplies for coloring; props to illustrate the armor (see examples).



OPENING: Provide art supplies for the children to draw pictures of times in their life when they need help or times when they are afraid. For example, they might draw a picture of being afraid at night in their bed or a time when they were sick and needed help or a time when a mean kid at school was threatening them.



BIBLE DISCOVERY: There are times in our lives when we need someone bigger to help us. Our parents want to take care of us. Teachers will do what they can to protect us at school. There are times when we are alone and don't have parents or teachers to help us face our fears or struggles. During these times we can feel alone and often wish someone else was there to help. It is during times like this that the devil likes to whisper lies to us and keep us afraid or unhappy.

Jesus has promised to help us in hard times. He gives us weapons to protect us and help us win the battle against our enemy, the devil. Open your Bible and tell the kids about the armor of God from Ephesians 6:13-18. Use these summaries about each armor piece to help explain the importance of the armor of God. You may want to show the children pictures of armor or have a contemporary piece of equipment to illustrate each piece as you talk about it. Some suggestions are given with each summary.

The belt of truth - (a wrestling belt or weight lifters belt) surround yourself with truth so you will be able to identify the lies of the devil.

The breastplate of righteousness - (a bullet proof vest) The

righteousness of Jesus covers protects us. When the devil tries to convince you that you are a bad person, remember that you are “right” because Jesus is in your life.

Feet prepared with the gospel of peace - (army boots or thick soled shoes) Don’t be afraid because Jesus gives you His peace and assurance that everything is going to be alright.

The shield of faith - (metal trash can lid) If we have strong faith in God, it is like holding up our shield to keep the devil from hitting us with his the lies and mean things that he throws at us. For example, sometimes the devil will try to make us afraid when there is no reason to be afraid. If we hold up our shield of faith and believe God more then the devil, the devil’s attempt will fail and we will not be afraid.

The helmet of salvation - (batting helmet or hockey goalies mask) The helmet protects our head and the brain which controls the rest of our body. It is not just our heart that is saved when Jesus comes to live in us, but our whole body should be controlled by Jesus.

Prayer - (game board from a Risk, Stratego or Battleship game) The Bible seems to indicate that prayer is more the battlefield than a weapon. Help the kids see that just as it is important to make the right move in a board game, it is more important that we pray in life so we can be winners in everything we do.

The sword of the Spirit, The Bible - (the biggest toy sword you can find) The more we know about the Bible, God’s Word, the better we will be able to defend ourselves against the devil’s mean lies. Learn what the Bible says. Memorize Bible verses. You may not think they are important right now in your life, but you will use these verses to defeat the devil for the rest of your life.



ACTIVITY: Have the children look again at the pictures they drew during the opening time. Talk about which weapons of our spiritual armor might help them in the situation they illustrated. Tell them to add the appropriate pieces of armor to their picture which will now show them a victor in Jesus. Some children may want to draw an entirely new picture. If time permits, this might be a good way for them to show what they have learned during this lesson.



CONCLUSION: Now, tell the kids to draw a picture of Jesus somewhere in their picture. Encourage them to take these pictures home and look at them often as a reminder that the armor of God and Jesus’ presence in our lives will protect us and equip us to defeat the devil’s attacks. We are victors in Jesus!