

THE ARMOR OF GOD

BIBLE PASSAGE: Ephesians 6:10-19

KEY PASSAGE: 2 Corinthians 5:17

MAIN POINT: God helps us love Him.

The Bible Story

Ephesians 6:10-19

BIBLE STORY FOR TODDLERS

Paul wrote a letter to say that living for Jesus is sometimes like a battle. Soldiers do not go out to battle without wearing armor. Paul talked about the armor of God. Paul said, “God will help us stand strong. Keep the truth about Jesus close to you. Let Jesus’ holiness protect your heart. Keep your feet ready to go and tell people about Jesus everywhere God sends you. Trust in God’s Word to help you know what is true. Always think about what Jesus did to rescue you. Know God’s words and use them! Pray all the time. Pray for other Christians, and pray for teachers who spread the good news.”

BABIES GOSPEL GEMS

- * Living for Jesus is not always easy.
- * God will help us stand strong.
- * God gives us His Word and His power to help us.

Additional resources for each session are available at gospelproject.com.

For free training and session-by-session help, visit <http://www.ministrygrid.com/web/thegospelproject>.

Babies Activities



LOOK IN THE BIBLE

Provide hand-size Bibles for babies to handle. Open your Bible to Ephesians 6. Show the Bible story picture as you say the Gospel Gems in a soothing voice. Read the key passage card.

SAY: God will help us stand strong. **GOD HELPS US LOVE HIM**, even when living for Jesus is hard. [*Pray for the babies.*]



SING A SONG

Sing to the tune of “The More We Get Together”:

“God sends the Holy Spirit to help us, to help us!

God sends the Holy Spirit to help us love Him!

We love God, obey Him, and tell friends about Him!

God sends the Holy Spirit to help us love Him!”

SAY: **GOD HELPS US LOVE HIM**, even though living for Jesus is not always easy. God gives us His Word and His power to help us.



BE STRONG

Sit with a baby on your lap, facing you. Gently guide his arms and legs through the finger play as long as it is comfortable.

“God will help me stand strong. [*Gently flex arms.*]

He will guard my heart. [*Put one hand on baby’s heart.*]

He will teach me what is true.” [*Put one hand on baby’s head.*]

SAY: Living for Jesus is not always easy. God gives us His Word and His power to help us. **GOD HELPS US LOVE HIM.**



READ STORIES ABOUT GOD’S POWER

Read Bible storybooks to babies, focusing on stories that show God’s love, power, and protection.

SAY: Living for Jesus is not always easy. **GOD HELPS US LOVE HIM.**

Check diapers, serve bottles if needed, and release babies to parents according to your church’s security guidelines. Give parents today’s big picture card. Repeat the Gospel Gems and Bible-learning activities for babies who stay a second hour.

Toddler Activities



CIRCLE TIME (5 MINUTES)

Provide small Bibles for toddlers to handle. Read the key passage card. Open your Bible to Ephesians 6. Show the Bible story picture as you tell the story. Say the Gospel Gems and Main Point. Pray.



MAKE GOSPEL SHOE ART

Trace toddlers' shoes onto colorful heavyweight paper. Hole punch two rows of three holes where laces would be. Show how to lace yarn through the holes. Tie the shoes. Help toddlers glue the shoes on construction paper. Write *I can go and tell the good news!* on top.

SAY: Part of the armor of God is good news shoes! We can tell others about Jesus because **GOD HELPS US LOVE HIM.**



RAISE SWORDS

Cut pool noodles to a manageable length for toddlers. Make sure children do not use their swords to hit others. Say the key passage, and toddlers will hold their sword high. Lower swords and repeat.

SAY: We do not fight with swords against people. God gives us His Word and His power to help us. **GOD HELPS US LOVE HIM.**



FIND THE BALL

Hide a small rubber ball in your palm. Show toddlers the ball, close your fists, put them behind your back, and then bring them forward. Invite toddlers to touch the hand that has the ball.

SAY: Our game was tricky! God gives us His Word and His power to help us know what is true. **GOD HELPS US LOVE HIM.**



WHAT WOULD MAKE GOOD ARMOR?

Provide a soft cap and a hard hat. Ask which would best protect someone's head. Invite toddlers to try on the hats.

SAY: A good helmet keeps your head from getting hurt. Knowing God's words helps your mind and heart! **GOD HELPS US LOVE HIM.**

Bonus Teaching Hour

THE ARMOR OF GOD

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TRANSITION ACTIVITY: MAKE A SHIELD

Cut heavyweight paper into a round or shield shape for each toddler. Provide stickers and crayons for toddlers to decorate their shield. Tape a paper ring to the back of the shield to make a grip.

SAY: Living for Jesus is not always easy. Paul described it like a battle! We do not have to be afraid because God will help us stand strong. **GOD HELPS US LOVE HIM.**



SING A SONG

Print the “Armor of God Lyrics” printable. Sing to the tune of “The Wheels on the Bus,” performing the hand motions as you sing. Toddlers will enjoy watching you even if they cannot keep up.

SAY: Living for Jesus is not always easy. God gives us His Word and His power to help us. **GOD HELPS US LOVE HIM.**



EXPERIMENT WITH HEAVY AND LIGHT

Provide three totes. Fill one with scrap paper, fill the second halfway with a few wooden blocks, and fill the third two-thirds full with wooden blocks. Invite toddlers to lift each tote. Praise the children for their strength.

SAY: God will help us stand strong through His Word. **GOD HELPS US LOVE HIM.**

Check diapers, serve a snack if needed, and release toddlers to parents according to your church's security procedures. Give parents today's big picture card to reinforce today's Bible story, Main Point, or Gospel Gems throughout the week.