

LESSON 67

The Armor of God

EPHESIANS 6:1-20



BIBLE TRUTH

THE GOSPEL THAT SAVES US ALSO ARMS US FOR BATTLE

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. OPENING REVIEW **5 MIN**

Use last week's lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

2. BIBLE STORY **10 MIN**

Read Ephesians 6:1–20 from the Scriptures or read story 145, “The Armor of God,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

3. OBJECT LESSON 1 **10 MIN**

The Armor of God

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ baseball equipment or child's set of plastic toy armor
- ✓ belt

4. TEACHING/DISCUSSION **10 MIN**

Using the teaching points, teach through the lesson for today.

5. OBJECT LESSON 2 **10 MIN**

Jesus, Our Example

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ costumes for Jesus (a flat sheet and rope belt) and Satan (a remnant of black fabric to serve as a cape)

6. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY **5 MIN**

7. ACTIVITY TIME **10 MIN**

Color a Picture

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ coloring page for NT Lesson 67—one for each child
- ✓ markers or crayons

8. CLOSING PRAYER **5 MIN**

9. BONUS OBJECT LESSON **20 MIN**

Newspaper Armor

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ a large supply of newspaper (a six-inch-thick stack for each team)
- ✓ four rolls of clear packing tape on plastic dispensers
- ✓ additional creative/crafty helpers, if necessary

TOTAL 85 MIN

PREPARING TO TEACH

TEACHING POINTS

Children, obey your parents—Assuming that children will hear his letter to the Ephesians, Paul takes time to address them directly (Ephesians 6:1–3). He does not say, “Parents, tell your children to obey you.” Paul reminds children of God’s commandment to honor their parents and tells them that if they do they will be blessed and it will go well with them. Paul also tells the children to obey their parents in the Lord. Apart from the saving work of Christ, children, just like adults, are hopelessly bound in their sins. The phrase “in the Lord” (Ephesians 6:1) tells children that they should obey not merely because their parents say so, but because God says so.

We need spiritual armor to defend ourselves in a spiritual war—In challenging the Ephesians to stand strong against temptation Paul compared life as a believer to a battle (Ephesians 6:11–12). We battle not against men but against a spiritual enemy that is evil and powerful. God has given us what we need to defend ourselves against the enemy’s attack. We have the armor of God, and if we use this armor God promises that we will be able to withstand any attack (Ephesians 6:13). The first two pieces of armor are truth and righteousness. Since the attacker is the “father of lies” (John 8:44), we must remember the truth of God. It alone can sustain us.

Our enemy also comes at us with partial truths. One of the enemy’s greatest schemes is to point out weakness and suggest we are unworthy. This, of course, is true! We are weak and unworthy. But we must remember that it is not our own righteousness we wear. Christ’s righteousness protects us like a breastplate. When the enemy tells us we are weak, we can say, “Yes, but my Lord is strong.” When the enemy tells us we are unworthy, we reply, “Right, but Jesus is worthy.” When the enemy tells us we have no righteousness, we reply that we have the perfect righteousness of Christ (2 Corinthians 5:21).

Paul continues by describing the shield of faith and the helmet of salvation. The gospel is able to fully protect us from any attack. We are well defended as we stand upon the truth of God’s salvation in Christ. For shoes, we put on the readiness of the gospel (Ephesians 6:15) so as always to be ready to help others with the truth of the gospel of Christ.

We go on the attack with the sword of the Spirit—The sword is an offensive weapon with which we attack and defeat those who come against us. Our attack is not with human strength or skill. Our attack is mounted by using the living, active two-edged sword of the Word of God, which is powerful beyond human strength (Hebrews 4:12). Jesus used this weapon against the temptations brought by Satan in the wilderness (Matthew 4:1). Three times the devil tempted Christ and three times he answered back, slicing through the devil's lies with the truth of God's eternal Word.

Paul concludes by encouraging the Ephesians to pray and by asking for their prayers for his own battle with sin. Sometimes we can think that the men who wrote Scripture were perfect and without sin. But Paul was tempted to give in to fear and not use his sword as he should. If Paul needed to pray, then we certainly need to pray also.

Where Is the Gospel?

How does today's Bible story fit into God's greater plan of redemption?

All the armor, from the belt of truth to the sword of the Spirit, is connected to the gospel. Each piece takes us back to the cross. The belt of truth is our security because we know the truth of God's plan to send his Son, Jesus, to die on the cross for our sins. As a result, we receive his righteousness as a breastplate, along with salvation in Christ as our helmet. Faith in Christ and his sacrificial death is our shield. The Spirit that God pours into us at conversion enables us to use the Word of God against the schemes of the enemy.

In the midst of the battle we have the gospel of peace. We are to love our enemies, and there is no greater demonstration of love than to share the gospel of peace. In the midst of our battle against Satan and against our own sinful nature, we always need to be ready to give a reason for our hope.

THE LESSON

OPENING REVIEW **5 MIN**

Use last week’s lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

BIBLE STORY **10 MIN**

Read Ephesians 6:1–20 from the Scriptures or read story 145, “The Armor of God,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

OBJECT LESSON 1 **10 MIN**

The Armor of God

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ baseball equipment or child’s set of plastic toy armor
- ✓ belt

Use baseball equipment to help the children understand the function of the armor. The catcher’s chest protector is the breastplate. The catcher’s glove is like the shield of faith. The bat is the sword of the Spirit. The batter’s helmet is like the helmet of salvation. Use any belt for the belt of truth. The shoes with cleats help you run the bases. Talk about the function of each of the items listed and have fun drawing the analogy to baseball. If you have a child’s set of plastic toy armor you can also use it.

Help the children memorize the function of each piece of armor from Ephesians 6:13–17, along with its connection to the gospel:

- Belt of truth (Ephesians 6:14)—It is the truth of the gospel that surrounds us and gives us the confidence to stand against the enemy.
- Breastplate of righteousness (Ephesians 6:14)—All Christians stand secure in the perfect righteousness of Christ.

- Shoes of readiness (Ephesians 6:15)—We need to be ready to share the gospel with those around us.
- Shield of faith (Ephesians 6:16)—Our faith in God and his Word is our shield. If we know his words are true, the lies of the enemy will be exposed and cannot harm us.
- Helmet of salvation (Ephesians 6:17)—It is our salvation in Christ that we depend on to keep us.
- Sword of the Spirit (Ephesians 6:17)—This is the only offensive weapon. Unlike faith that believes the truth of the Word, the sword uses the Word actively against the lies of the enemy.

TEACHING/DISCUSSION **10 MIN**

Using the teaching points, teach through the lesson for today.

OBJECT LESSON 2 **10 MIN**

Jesus, Our Example

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ costumes for Jesus (a flat sheet and rope belt) and Satan (a remnant of black fabric to serve as a cape)

With another adult, act out the temptation of Jesus from Matthew 4:1–11. You don't have to memorize lines, just make two copies of the text to use as a script and highlight the speaking parts. At the end of the drama have Satan flee the classroom. Then take off your costume and talk about what happened with the class.

Ask the class which part of the armor Jesus used to defeat Satan. (Jesus used the sword—the Word of God.)

Ask them how they can use God's Word in their lives. As an example, ask them if they have ever been afraid and recalled the words: "When I am afraid, I put my trust in you" (Psalm 56:3).

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY **5 MIN**

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.

ACTIVITY TIME **10 MIN**

Color a Picture

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ coloring page for NT Lesson 67—one for each child
- ✓ markers or crayons

While the children are coloring, engage them by asking the following questions:

Review each piece of the armor and see if the children can point it out. Then explain to them what each piece of armor does for the soldier and how each piece of armor works in the armor of God.

BELT OF TRUTH—When we know God’s truth we will not believe lies.

BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS—We have no righteousness of our own. Christ’s righteousness is very strong and cannot be attacked.

SHOES OF READINESS—We are fearful, but God gives us strength to share his Word.

SHIELD OF FAITH—Faith helps us to believe God so that we don’t believe the enemy’s lies.

HELMET OF SALVATION—Our salvation, believing that Jesus died for our sin so that we could be forgiven, is our only hope. None of us can be saved by our own works.

SWORD OF THE SPIRIT—The sword is the Word of truth, which overcomes the lies of the world and is able to cut into a person’s heart to tell them where they are going wrong or encourage them when they are going right.

- **What is your favorite part of the armor? Why?**
(Accept answers, then ask the children to tell you why that is their favorite part.)

CLOSING PRAYER **5 MIN**

Pick several children to pray prayers based on the day's Scripture passages.

BONUS OBJECT LESSON **20 MIN**

Newspaper Armor

SUPPLIES:

- a large supply of newspaper (a six-inch-thick stack for each team)
- four rolls of clear packing tape on plastic dispensers
- additional creative/crafty helpers, if necessary

Divide the class up into teams of five and give each team a stack of newspaper and a roll of tape. Assign a helper to each team and instruct them to choose one team member to be their warrior. It will be the job of the rest of the team to dress their warrior in newspaper armor. They should make at least four of the pieces of armor mentioned in Ephesians 6.

Give them ten minutes to work and then talk about how each piece of armor would be used in battle. Then, using the "Where Is the Gospel?" section, help the children see how every part of the armor is connected to the gospel.

LESSON 67 - THE ARMOR OF GOD

