



Digging Deeper:

This Veterans Day, as we pay tribute to our Veterans, let it also remind us that we are called to be a part of God's army. What does that mean? Here's something Paul told Timothy: *Join with me in suffering, like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No one serving as a soldier gets entangled in civilian affairs, but rather tries to please his commanding officer.*
—2 Timothy 2:3-4

Ask the question, "What does it look like to be a part of God's army?"

Here are four qualities you might consider talking about with your kids that can help make a good soldier for Jesus Christ. (taken from an article by Alan Fong)

1. Be dedicated – what does it look like to be dedicated? If we asked our friends, would they know we are dedicated to our commander?
2. Be durable – Paul says, "join me in suffering". What does it look like to stand up when it gets tough?
3. Be deliberate – don't get entangled in civilian (worldly) affairs. It's easy to be distracted. Instead, what might it look like to be deliberate?
4. Be delightful – what are some ways you can please your commanding officer this week?

It takes effort to be a good soldier. But that's what God has called all of us to be.

Ephesians 6:12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

Activity:

1) Sing or watch the oldie but goodie Sunday School song, "I'm In the Lord's Army" (to the tune of The Old Gray Mare): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vDly5TUXovo>

2) Putting on your Armor!

Just like soldiers in the military have to protect themselves with equipment God gives us His armor to protect ourselves.

Materials: two oranges, a glass bowl large enough for two oranges to be completely submerged, water, Bible

- Read Ephesians 6:10-17
- Talk about what each piece of armor stands for and how it helps us stand against the devil (Our real enemy).
- Place both oranges in the bowl with their "armor" on. (In other words, keep the skin on both oranges.) Talk about how the oranges are floating, or "standing firm" in the water.
- Little by little, begin peeling away some of the "armor" (skin) of one of the oranges. You might peel off a chunk and say something like, "Uh oh, this orange forgot to put on his belt of truth. When someone says something ugly about him today, he might believe it. If he believes that lie, instead of the truth that he's wonderfully made, he might not stand as firm in the water." Place the orange back in the water and notice that, although it doesn't sink completely, it begins dipping further in the water than the orange still wearing all its armor.
- Continue on this way, peeling back a little at a time, talking about a new piece of armor the orange forgot to put on, talking about how that might affect his day, and then placing the orange in the water to see it sink more and more each time.
- By the time you remove all of the armor, the orange will completely sink. It is not able to "stand" at all.

Challenge your children to think purposefully each day about putting on each piece of armor to stand more firmly against the devil's wily schemes.