



FULLY EQUIPPED



POWER PHRASE

I can be spiritually prepared!

MEMORY VERSE

Ephesians 6:11a, "Put on the whole armor of God."

SUPPORTING DOCTRINES

For supporting doctrines, see our Statement of Faith at www.novoministries.org/statement-of-faith.

GOALS

The child will...

- Learn what it means to be spiritually prepared with the whole armor of God!
- Understand how to be spiritually prepared!
- Choose to be spiritually prepared each and every day!

REMINDERS

Through this series we are teaching the children about the armor of God and why they need to be prepared for spiritual battle. While the concept of the armor of God may feel outdated to what the children are currently dealing with, we believe that the enemy is still as real as ever and that with intentionality these life-changing truths can absolutely transform their lives to be spiritually prepared.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We want to express our gratitude to the volunteers who contributed ideas toward the development of this series. All of our contributors are knowledgeable and have worked extensively with at-risk children. We thank them for the time they have invested in these children.

A SPECIAL THANKS

A special thanks to Caleb Freeman for his willingness to impact thousands of children with the Gospel by sharing part of his story of how God has worked in his life.

The stories and photos shared in the Gospel Presentation activities are used by permission of the individuals.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

All Large Group or Small Group activity visuals or supply items followed by an asterisk (*) may be downloaded for printing at www.novoministries.org/resource.

DAVID FIGHTS THE GIANT (BIBLE STORY — 1 SAMUEL 17:1-54)

Visuals

- Bible Story Visuals*, “Cheer” and “Boo” Signs*

Supplies

- Bible, Bible character costumes, slingshot, crown

Captivate #1 - Act it Out!

- Have the children dress up or pretend to be characters in the story. Choose three boys to be David, Goliath, and King Saul. Have them act out the story as you tell it.

Captivate #2 - Cheer!

- Choose two children to hold the “Cheer” and “Boo” signs. Throughout the Bible Story have them hold up the sign that fits with what is being said. This will help the children focus on the story and identify the positive and negative aspects of the story.

Introduction

- The Israelite army was camped in the Valley of Elah. Saul had lined up the army and prepared them to fight against the Philistine army. The Philistines were camped on one hill, and Israel’s army was on another. A mighty warrior named Goliath came out of the Philistine camp. He was more than 9 feet tall and wore a suit of armor made of bronze. He dared the Israelites to choose one of their men to fight him. If the Israelite soldier won, the Philistines would become their slaves. But if Goliath won, the Israelites would become slaves to the Philistines. For 40 days, each morning and evening Goliath came forward and stood before the Israelite army.

Story

- Retell the story from 1 Samuel 17:1-54.
- See Bible Story Script.

Conclusion

- God used David to defeat Goliath, an enemy of God. David didn’t need big heavy armor because his real armor or protection was provided by God. David was fearless because he knew he was fighting for the God of the Israelites, the One Who would give him victory. Nothing is impossible when we are spiritually prepared and have God on our side!

TESTIMONY

- Share how you prepare yourself spiritually each day (spending time reading the Bible, praying, worshiping God in song, etc.).
- Share how preparing yourself spiritually has impacted your life or those around you (sensitivity to the Spirit, a word to share with others, etc.).

CHALLENGE

Recommended Visuals

- Key Point Visuals*, Power Phrase Visual*, Memory Verse Visual*

Supplies

- Bible, Bible Insert for Large Group*

Introduction

- In our Bible Story we learned how God went with David and gave him the strength and courage to defeat his enemy Goliath. David was young and small, so the armor King Saul gave him to wear was too big and heavy for him. But David knew that God had called him to battle and would protect him. He trusted that all he needed was a sling, some stones, and God on his side. Just like David, we have an enemy—the devil—and God wants us to be spiritually prepared for the attacks we will face from him each and every day.

Key Points

The devil is our enemy!

- God says in the Bible that we have an enemy who wants to destroy us. Our enemy is not only a crafty liar, but he is also like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour or destroy.
- 1 Peter 5:8, “Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.”
- We shouldn’t walk around scared of the devil or allow him to control our lives, but we should be aware that he is very real and wants to trip us up. He does this by looking for our weaknesses and tempting us with what is difficult for us to say no to (like lying, stealing, cheating, disobeying our parents, fighting with others, etc.) or by discouraging us with people who hate us for loving Jesus. With God’s help, we can spiritually prepare to withstand any and all of these attacks of the devil.
- 1 Peter 5:9, “Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.”

We can withstand the attacks of the devil!

- Paul, a follower of Jesus a long time ago, wrote a letter to encourage the believers in the city of Ephesus to be prepared spiritually to withstand the attacks of the devil. During Paul’s time, people were familiar with the armor the Roman soldiers wore to protect their bodies from head to toe when they went into battle. God wanted the people in Ephesus to understand that in the same way that the soldiers wear armor to protect their bodies, we have to prepare ourselves spiritually to withstand the attacks of the devil.
- Ephesians 6:11, “Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.”
- When this verse says to put on the whole armor of God, that does not mean that we are supposed to wear actual armor to be protected from the devil. Rather, each piece of the armor is symbolic of how we should be prepared spiritually to fight against our enemy, the devil.

CHALLENGE (CONTINUED)

Key Points (Continued)

We can be spiritually prepared for every situation!

- Just like the soldiers wore their armor to be equipped for battle, God gives us tools so that we are spiritually prepared for hard situations in life. With God's help, we can defend ourselves from the attacks of the devil and stand firm on God's plan for our lives.
- Psalm 18:35-36, "You have given me the shield of Your salvation, and Your right hand supported me, and Your gentleness made me great. You gave a wide place for my steps under me, and my feet did not slip."

Conclusion

We need to spiritually prepare for the hard situations and temptations the devil will throw our way each and every day. God has given us all the tools we need to defend and protect ourselves from the attacks of the devil. In the coming weeks, we will look at these tools individually so we can understand how to use them in our daily lives.

Invitation

For the unsaved child:

- Do you have someone who will walk through the tough experiences in your life with you? God can do that for you. He loves you very much. Have you made the choice to ask Jesus to forgive your sins and be the Lord of your life?
- God sent His Son to die on the cross so you could receive forgiveness for your sins. We have all sinned, and sin separates us from God (Romans 6:23a). Sin is anything we think, say, or do that breaks God's Law. Jesus paid the price for our sin; He became our Substitute (2 Corinthians 5:21).
- Invite the children to stay behind and talk to a leader if they have any questions or would like to ask Jesus to forgive their sins and be the Lord of their lives.

For the saved child:

- Do you prepare yourself spiritually each day? Are you prepared to stand against the temptations and attacks of the devil? Do you honor God with how you live and serve Him daily?
- Encourage children to stay behind and talk to a leader if they have any questions.

SUIT UP (ARRIVING ACTIVITY)

Visuals

- Picture of a person wearing armor*

Supplies

- Armor of God Template*, writing tools, scissors

Instruction and Application

- As the children arrive, show them the picture of the person wearing armor. Ask them why someone would wear armor and how it might help him. Ask what material they think armor is made of and whether it would be heavy.
- Explain that in this series we will learn about the armor of God and how each piece is symbolic of how we can prepare ourselves spiritually so we are fully equipped to withstand the attacks of the devil each and every day.
- Show the children the Armor of God Template person and name the different pieces of armor and what spiritual truth each represents (reference the text with the template for further explanation on the spiritual truths each piece of armor represents).
- Explain that even though we don't need to wear actual armor, we can be spiritually prepared to fight against the devil when we remember God's truth!
- Review the Memory Verse with the children. Ephesians 6:11a, "Put on the whole armor of God."



FULLY DRESSED (MEMORY VERSE)

Visuals

- Memory Verse Visual*, Illustrated Memory Verse Visual*, Picture of a snow skier in full gear*

Supplies

- Ball

A.G.A.I.N. Acrostic

A — Attention Grabber (Grab their attention with an interesting introduction and don't let go!)

Ask the children if they have ever gone snow skiing or seen someone snow skiing on TV. What do skiers wear? They wear a stocking cap that covers most of their face, goggles, gloves, snow pants, scarf, jacket, and ski boots. That doesn't even include all the layers they wear underneath to stay warm. What would happen if the skier forgot to put on pants or gloves? He might get frostbite! That's why skiers make sure they are fully clothed. In the same way, the Bible tells believers to put on the whole armor of God, which means to remember and practice the truths from the Bible to protect us from the attacks and lies of the devil. When we remember God's truth, we can have victory over the enemy!

G — God's Word (Show them that the concept you are teaching them comes from the Bible.)

Ephesians 6:11a, "Put on the whole armor of God."

A — Awareness (Make them "aware" of the words and concepts.)

Put on — spiritually prepare, use, wear, equip

Whole — complete, not in part

Armor of God — includes God's truth and righteousness, remembering our salvation, proclaiming the Gospel, living by faith, and being guided by the Holy Spirit

I — In Their Lives (Teach them to apply the lesson "in their lives.")

Unsaved child (questions to ask an unsaved child)

Have you asked Jesus to be the Lord of your life and provide victory from your sins? Do you want His help and protection from the attacks of the devil?

Saved child (questions to ask a saved child)

How can you prepare spiritually to withstand the attacks of the devil? What does the armor of God represent?

N — Number of Times (Repeat the content again and again until the children understand it.)

Read from Scripture. Repeat after me. Play the Memory Game three or four times.

Memory Game

Play Hot Potato. Have the children sit in a circle or around a table. Each child should then say a word of the Memory Verse while passing a ball around the group. If a child misses a word, have him start the verse over. Speed up the recitation of the verse to make the game more challenging.

MIRACLE (GOSPEL PRESENTATION)

Visuals

- “Who Is God?” and “What to Do Now?” Foundational Gospel Truths Visuals*, Picture of Caleb Freeman*

Supplies

- Bible, paper, writing tools

Instruction and Application

- Caleb Freeman grew up knowing about God and going to church. At the age of 6, Caleb asked Jesus to forgive his sins and be the Lord of his life. After that, Caleb grew in his faith and relationship with God. He was very involved with church and was a quiet leader. He was a behind-the-scenes kind of guy.
- In December 2017, Caleb and his brother were driving to a University of Oklahoma basketball game when they were hit by a semi truck going full speed. Caleb should have died that day. He was in a coma and in the Intensive Care Unit for a month. Ninety percent of people with his injuries never wake up. Of the 10 percent who do wake up, very few recover to function fully. Caleb was transferred to hospitals in Denver, Nebraska, and Idaho for various treatments and surgeries. After he came out of the coma, he had to regain control of his body, including his vision and speech. He had to relearn basic skills like swallowing, talking, and walking.
- More than 70,000 people followed Caleb’s story through his parents’ posts on Facebook as they shared what God was doing in Caleb’s life. Their story inspired and challenged people all over the nation! Through the many prayers said for Caleb, miracle after miracle occurred. Finally, after months of being away from home, Caleb was able to return to his family and go back to school.
- Caleb remained positive throughout the experience and continues to trust God. He continues physical therapy and has goals to walk unassisted, run again, talk more clearly, and write more legibly.
- Before the accident, Caleb dreamed of being a sportscaster. Now his dream is to travel and share his story so others can know and love God. As hard as his experience has been, Caleb says he wouldn’t trade it for anything. He believes God has a plan for each of us, even when we don’t understand that plan. No matter how difficult our circumstances may be, God can bring us through and use hard experiences for His glory.
- Just like Caleb, we can know that God loves us and is always there for us. Use the “Who Is God?” Visual to review.
- All the things Caleb learned as a child about God helped him as he recovered from his accident. We also need to grow in our faith. Use the “What to Do Now?” Visual to review.

Discussion

- Older Team: Have the children share if they have ever questioned why God allowed bad things to happen in their lives.
- Younger Team: Have the children talk about who God is and how much He loves them.
- Quiet Team: Have the children pick one of the verses from the Foundational Gospel Truths Visuals, write it down, and explain what it means.
- Active Team: Have the children sit in a circle and toss the ball to someone in the group, each time spelling a letter in the word love. The child to say the letter e should share a way God shows His love to him.

FLASHBACK (REVIEW QUESTIONS)

Supplies

- Review Questions*

Large Group Story Review Questions

- Who were the Israelites preparing to fight? (The Philistines)
- Who was the warrior that came out from the Philistine army? (Goliath)
- How tall was Goliath? (More than 9 feet tall)
- What was his armor made of? (Bronze)
- What was Goliath asking for? (An Israelite to fight him)
- How many days did Goliath come forward? (40 days)
- Why was David sent to the Israelites? (To bring food to his brothers and check on them)
- What did David say when he heard Goliath's demands? (Who does he think he is to challenge the armies of the living God?)
- What was David's response when Saul said he couldn't fight? (David said he had killed a lion and a bear.)
- What did David take into battle? (His sling and some stones)
- Who won the battle? (David struck down Goliath with a sling and a stone and then killed Goliath with his own sword.)

Discussion Questions

- What are things you can do to help you remember to put on the armor of God daily?
- What could keep you from putting on the armor of God daily?

ARMOR OF GOD MATCH (CRAFT)

Visuals

- Craft sample*

Supplies

- Armor of God Matching Game Template* (one per child), scissors, glue, coloring tools, resealable plastic bag

Instruction and Application

- Give each of the children an Armor of God Matching Game Template. Have them color all the pieces and cut them out. Then have them play the game either in pairs or in two teams. When they are finished, have the children put the pieces in a plastic bag so they can take the game home and play it with their families. Playing the matching game will help them remember the elements of the armor of God.
- Remind the children that today we learned that we should be spiritually prepared. The Bible uses the armor of God to symbolize spiritual truths we should remember and reminds us of the importance of thinking about these truths daily!
- Review the Memory Verse. Ephesians 6:11a, “Put on the whole armor of God.”



WHAT'S THE POINT? (APPLICATION ACTIVITIES)

Supplies

- “What’s the Point?” card*, paper, writing tools

Activity #1

- Give each child a “What’s the Point?” card. Have the children write what it means for them to prepare spiritually each and every day and why that is important. What action can they take this week to create a routine and make it a priority to think about these spiritual truths? Maybe they could get up a few minutes earlier each day or talk to God while eating their breakfast. How will they make it a priority every day?

Activity #2

- Have the children create a chant, rap, or song that will help them remember the spiritual truths that the armor of God represents. Each week they can add a new element of the armor of God to the song so that by the end of the series they have a full rap. The first portion should be about being spiritually prepared. They also can create actions to go with the song.

NOW WHAT? (ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES)

Supplies

- Additional Activity #1: Coloring Page*
- Additional Activity #2: Hidden Object Activity Page*
- Additional Activity #3: Crossword Activity Page*
- Additional Activity #4: The Big Take Away Key Chain*

Instruction and Application

- These activities are to be used with your team as time allows to reinforce the lesson concepts. The children may take these home each week or do them while they are listening to you teach during Small Group. These activities require little to no explanation and can be great for moments when you are transitioning or don’t have time to start another activity.



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