

Adventures with GOD!

THE GIFT OF GOD'S PROTECTION (C.3.WINTER.10)

Biblical Reference	Ephesians 6:10-13
Key Verse	Ephesians 6:13
Key Concept	God has given me the gift of spiritual armor.
Educational Objectives	At the end of the class today, the children will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Explain the different types of battles we face as Christians 2. Act out an example of how we can use our spiritual armor 3. Say the Key Verse by memory

Life Application

As followers of Jesus, we will face a kind of spiritual battle. The Bible is clear that God's enemy is at work in the world and we are a target. But, the Bible is also clear that God has given us spiritual armor to protect against the enemy's attacks. This lesson focuses on this spiritual armor. Children will have the opportunity to reflect on how to apply this armor in their everyday lives.

Possible Activities and Class Plan

Activity	Materials	Time
My GROW Adventure	GROW Adventure materials	5 minutes
Opening Prayer	Candle	1 minute
Bible Reading	Bible	5 minutes
Game	Flags	10 minutes
Bible exploration	Bible, illustrations	15 minutes
Craft	See instructions	10 minutes
My GROW Adventure	Review	5 minutes
Closing Prayer	Candle	1 minute

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INSTRUCTIONS

My GROW Adventure with God Weekly Review: As children enter take time to have them reflect on their adventure with God booklets and either discuss or use art materials to express their journey during the past week. You may wish to add any art work, written poems, prayers or songs to a GROW wall in the room. You can find my GROW Adventure with God materials at CovChurch.org/children/adventures-with-god.

Opening Prayer: Gather children around a candle. Light the candle, and explain that we are entering into a special time with God. Encourage the children to hold their hands out in front of them, palms up, as a sign they are ready to receive what God has for them today.

Prayer Example: Lord God, thank you for making us, for loving us, for forgiving us, and guiding us. We know you are here with us right now. As we enter into your word, the Bible, help us draw close to you, to understand and to listen to what you have to say to us. Amen

(For safety sake, you may wish to extinguish the candle after the prayer.)

Bible Reading: Explain that as we read the Bible we do that first to spend time with God. Children can remain with hands out stretched, palms up, to receive the word as it's being read. Alternatively they can be invited to draw what they hear. Read Ephesians 6:10-13 two times and ask children to respond.

Question Examples: What did you notice in this passage? How does it make you feel? Was there anything you would ask God about that you didn't understand or was confusing? Is God saying anything to you though the passage?

Game: This is an opportunity to introduce today's theme in a way that gets children moving and thinking strategically. This game requires some open space. If you can't take the kids out of the classroom, we suggest that you use the other game option that's found on page 6. In this game, the goal is to gain territory from the opposing team. Divide the group up into two teams. Each team should have a name and should have something to mark their territory (for example, an orange cone) or home base. Each team should also be given a flag (a different color for each team). The goal is to get steal the flag of the opposing team and bring it in to their territory in order to claim it for their own.



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Each team needs to create a strategy to keep their territory safe and at the same time capture the other territory. If someone on the team is tagged by someone on the other team, they must freeze in place and can only start moving again when someone from their own team, designated as the doctor, touches them. The doctor cannot touch the flag.

Bible Exploration: Once they've finished playing the game, spend some time talking about what they did. Discuss the responsibility of the doctor, the strategy of the team, etc. Discuss the reality that although this was a fun game, it relates to our lives as Christians in some ways. The Bible talks about a spiritual war that is going on and, as Christians, we find ourselves in the middle of the battle. We are on God's team, but Satan is trying to do everything to keep God's team from advancing. We know for a fact that God is going to win the battle, because of Jesus' death and resurrection. But, in the meantime, how do we as Christians seek God's help and protection when we experience this battle?

Ask: what do soldiers use for protection when they go into battle? What kind of protection do we have from God? What does the battle look like that we face? Review the description of the battle that we face in Ephesians 6:10-13. Ask the children to get back into the two teams and have them come up with a drama that illustrates how they imagine it looks to put on the armor of God in their everyday life. If possible maybe come up with a situation to give each group and then have them act it out to illustrate the different battles we face.

Then after each team has acted out their drama, together come up with actions for the Bible memory verse and say it together.

Craft: On pages 5, you will find an illustration of the different parts that make up the armor of God. Have children choose one of the parts to make by tracing the pattern on card stock and decorating it. Provide ribbon or yarn so they can make it into an ornament.

Today's GROW Adventure with God Review:

G=God's Word: What is the story? (Give children an opportunity to express their understanding of the story).

R=Relationships: Is there anything in today's Bible story that shows us how we should or shouldn't share God's love with others? (Remind children that sometimes God uses the stories of the Bible to show us how we shouldn't act toward God or others. Give children a chance to consider how we might show God's love instead).

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O=Outward Action: Is there anything in the Bible story that shows us how we should help or serve God or others? (Explore concrete ways the children could live this out in the coming week).

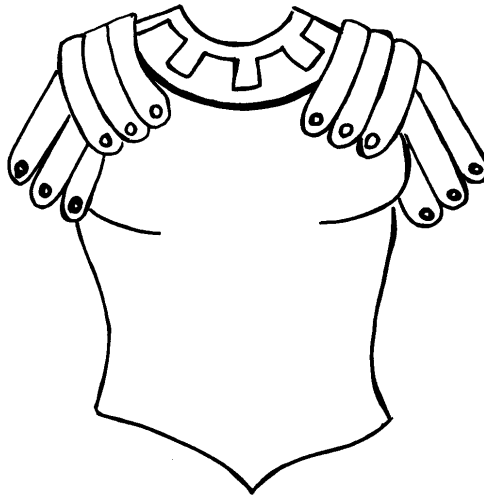
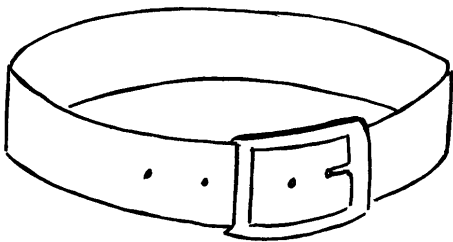
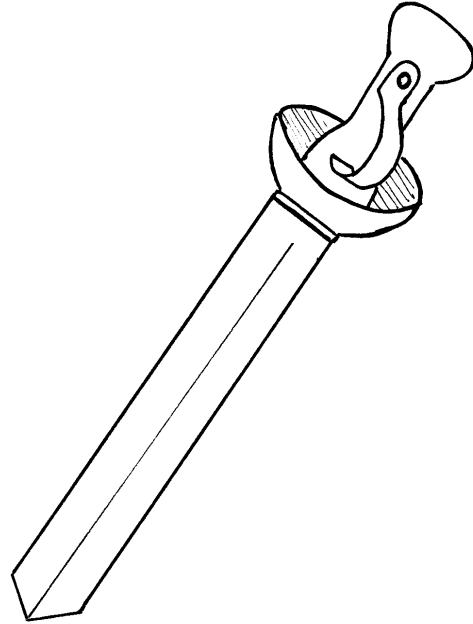
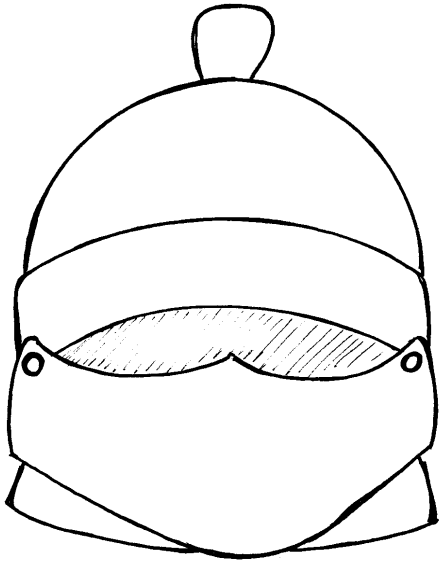
W=Worship: Is there anything in the Bible story that shows us how we should accept God's love for us and others? Ask: How do you feel about God? What would you like to say to God?

Closing Prayer: Gather children around the candle again. As you light the candle, explain that the flame is something that is present in the light and the darkness. The candle reminds us that God is always with us. Is there anything anyone wishes to say to God? After children have responded, close the prayer time.

Prayer Example: Lord God, we thank you that you are always with us, and always love us. It's good to be with you. Thank you for what we have learned today. Thank you for being with us and for teaching us through the Bible. Help us to remember what you have taught us today and to live it out when we leave. Amen

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CRAFT



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GAME

If you are not able to find a big enough space to play the game mentioned on page 2, here is another option. Make two different puzzles that contain the Key Verse (for example, a blue puzzle and a green puzzle). Before class, hide the puzzle pieces around the room. When it's time to play the game, divide the children up into two teams and assign them each a color. Explain that their mission is to find the puzzle pieces that correspond to their team color. Each team will choose one person from their team to go out and find the pieces. These people will be blindfolded. The other team members will have a minute to look around the room first and try and locate the pieces, without touching them. When the game begins, the two people who are blindfolded are sent out, and the other team members must stay at the team base, and guide them to the pieces using only their voices. They must be careful because on the floor, throughout the room, there will be landmines that they can't step on. (Use a couple of pieces of colored construction paper to represent these landmines). Once all the pieces are found, the players must return to their bases where the other members will assemble the puzzle.