

Adventures with GOD!

THE GIFT OF GOD'S PROTECTION (C.3.WINTER.11)

Biblical Reference	Ephesians 6:14-18
Key Verse	Ephesians 6:14
Key Concept	Everyday I can put on the spiritual armor that God has given me.
Educational Objectives	At the end of the class today, the children will be able to: 1. Name the different parts that make up the armor of God 2. Act out how they use this armor in their daily life 3. Explain the Bible memory verse using their own words

Life Application

God loves us and protects us in our daily battles. The Bible is clear that our battle is against the spiritual powers we can't see, but we can trust that God has given us victory and necessary armor. In this lesson, children will reflect on the different parts of armor that God gave us, and how they can be used to protect us when we feel under attack.

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	Suitcases, adult clothes	10 minutes
Bible exploration	Bible, illustrations	20 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 booklet,s 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 6:14-18 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 another interesting way to introduce the idea of putting on the armor of God. Before class, put together two suitcases filled with adult clothing (shoes, a tie, a hat, shirt, pants, socks, etc.). Divide the children into two groups, and give each group a suitcase. The suitcases will be placed on one side of the room and the groups will form two lines on the opposite side of the room from the suitcases. When the game starts, the first person must run to the suitcase, open it, and put on the clothes that are inside. Once they have the clothes on, they must run back to their team, take off the adult clothes they put on, and then pass clothes on to next person in line. After the next person puts the clothes on, he/she must run back to



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the suitcase, take off the adult clothes, run back to the team, and repeat. Every team member must have the opportunity to put on the clothes. The first team who gets all of its members dressed wins.

Bible Exploration: Once they've finished playing the game, spend some time talking about what they did. What was it like to try and put the clothes on? To work together as a team? Refer them to the Key Verse found in Ephesians 6:14. Have the verse written out on a large piece of paper or on the white board. Ask one of the children to read the verse out loud and then ask the rest of the children if they can explain the verse in their own words.

Take out a bag that has illustrations or items that represent the different parts of our spiritual armor. Read the Bible text (Ephesians 6:14-18) together verse by verse, and take out each piece of armor, in order to describe what it is used for.

Divide up into several teams and give each team one of the pieces of armor. Ask them to come up with a drama that represents how they put on that piece of armor on a daily basis. Allow them a few minutes to come up with the drama and then each group will have 2 minutes to present.

Craft: On page 5, you will find the directions and illustration for the craft.

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).

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?

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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

Make sure there are enough copies of the illustration below. Give each child a copy and allow them to color and decorate it. Provide aluminum foil that can be used to decorate the different parts. Provide yarn or ribbon that can be attached to the back in order to make it an ornament. Have them cut out the soldier and glue it onto card stock to make it sturdier. Include the Key Verse on the back of the soldier.

