

# The Armor of God

Ephesians 6:10-20



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# Introduction

**The book of Ephesians is a letter that was written by Paul and sent to the church at Ephesus. In this letter Paul does not confront a problem but rather describes the wonderful gifts we all have received through Christ. He refers to the church as a body, temple, bride and soldier. All of his examples paint a picture of a church that is driven and united in purpose because each member is doing his or her part to bring about a strong and united church. He concludes his letter with a warning about our most dangerous enemy, Satan. He is dangerous to us individually and as a church. Satan is focused on destroying the church, the individual and family. God has not left us ill equipped. He has provided us with His armor. "Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes" (Ephesians 6:11). Putting this armor on not only protects us as individuals, but also as a church family.**

## **DESCRIBE WHAT ARMOR IS**

To begin your class, ask your students what armor looks like. Armor is a protective covering. There are several professions that wear special coverings such as astronauts, deep-sea divers and football players. Explain to your students that during New Testament times Roman soldiers wore special protection when going into battle. In Ephesians 6 Paul, the writer of the book, uses the Roman soldier's armor as an object lesson. During the Feast of Tabernacles, we are going to come to a greater understanding of how the armor God provides for us to stand against our enemy—Satan.

## **WHERE DOES GOD TELL US ABOUT HIS ARMOR?**

God tells us about His armor in Ephesians 6:10-20. A Christian is to "be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes" (verses 10, 11).

## **WHY DOES A CHRISTIAN NEED ARMOR?**

Satan is a powerful being. Satan cannot be in more than one place at a time, but he has demons to help him out. Satan is a strong enemy that is a lot more powerful than you and I. The good news is that he is not greater or more powerful than God. God's way is the only way we will defeat our enemy, Satan. We are soldiers in God's army. We are not fighting 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" (verse 12). The only way we can win the battle against Satan is if we do what our Commander-in-Chief tells us to do. God has provided each of us with our own special armor that will protect us and when used correctly we will defeat our enemy, Satan.

## **WHAT DOES GOD WANT US TO DO WITH THE ARMOR?**

God says in verse 13 that He wants you to "put on the full armor of God." He doesn't want you to use just a part of the armor, but all of the armor. He has made you responsible for putting it on and using it. God has made you a promise--if you put His armor on each day when evil comes "you may be able to stand your ground" (verse 13).

**WHAT DOES GOD'S ARMOR LOOK LIKE?**

Since God has given us the command to take up His armor, we need to know what that armor looks like. As spiritual armor cannot be seen, the apostle Paul compared each piece of God's armor with the armor a Roman soldier would wear.

**BELT OF TRUTH**

A Roman soldier would wear a wide strong belt around his middle. This belt would protect his vital organs and it provided a way to keep the other parts of his armor in place. Knowing that his armor was secure the soldier could move with confidence. The Christian puts on the Belt of Truth by attending church, Bible School, studying his Bible daily and memorizing scripture. When faced to do battle with Satan you are confident that God will be with you. Why? Because you know what the Bible says in Hebrews 13:5, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." You know God loves you, John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son..." God has also promised victory, I Corinthians 15:57, "But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." Another way to put on the Belt of Truth is to be honest and truthful. Satan is a liar and the father of lies (John 8:44). When you obey God and do all of the above, you are becoming like Jesus Christ. When you are tempted to lie, turn to Christ for help. Christ is the way to truth (John 14:6). He will protect you if you ask.

**BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS**

A Roman soldier's breastplate would cover him from his neck to his waist both front and back. It was usually made of leather coated with a thin layer of metal for added protection. Some soldiers would wear a square piece of bronze over the chest and under the leather coat as a heart guard. Just as the Roman soldier needed to protect his heart, you too need to and you do this through righteousness.

The Bible says "there is no one righteous, not even one" (Romans 3:10). "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). The good news is that God no longer looks down on you as a sinner when you ac-

cept Jesus Christ as your personal savior. God forgives you of your sins (Ephesians 4:32). God graciously credits you with righteousness because Jesus sacrificed His life for yours. "God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God" (2 Corinthians 5:21). You put on the breastplate of righteousness when you live your life right before God. God made us with the ability to choose between right and wrong. When you choose to tell the truth and not lie, to be kind and not hateful, to obey and not disobey, you are choosing the right way of life that protects your heart with the Breastplate of Righteousness.

**FEET SHOD WITH THE GOSPEL OF PEACE**

If your feet hurt, it is difficult to walk or run, let alone go into battle. A Roman soldier wore shoes different than the ones we wear today. When a soldier went into battle it was important that his shoes were not slippery. A Roman soldier wore shoes made of leather with hobnails in the soles. The hobnails would secure the soldier to the ground and stop him from slipping. The Christian puts on the shoes of the Gospel of Peace by praying each day and asking for God's peace. The Bible says, "He [Jesus] is our peace" (Ephesians 2:14). We gain this peace by accepting Jesus as our savior and accepting His gift of salvation. "Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ..." (Romans 5:1). As you walk through each day, realize that God loves you and all people. You will walk in peace when you do your best to be kind and loving to your brother. "Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen" (Ephesians 4:29). You will be walking in peace by doing all of these things because you will be putting Jesus in your life.

**SHIELD OF FAITH**

A Roman soldier's shield was either made of wickerwork (flexible thin twigs woven together) or leather stretched over a wooden frame. The shield would give him protection

from his enemies' arrows. Knowing the shield was made of wood, the enemy would often set his arrows on fire before shooting them. The Roman soldier would soak his shield in water before going into battle to stop it from catching on fire. Shields were also made with hooks on the side. Soldiers could line up and hook their shields together to make a wall of protection.

Satan throws fiery arrows and darts at us through temptations, insults and desires of the flesh. You put on your shield of faith by never doubting God, trusting Him completely. You must believe that God is able to work problems out for you and that He loves you and is always with you. You hold up your shield of faith by doing what is right and standing up for what you believe God wants you to do even when you have doubts. When you are weak or waver, lock arms with your Christian friends. "Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds" (Hebrews 10:23, 24).

### **HELMET OF SALVATION**

A Roman soldier would wear a helmet to protect his head. In New Testament times, soldiers' helmets were made of bronze. In order to protect your head, you must put the things of God inside and allow good thoughts to control the way you think. Satan wants to attack your mind so that he may lead you astray. Jesus paid the punishment for sin Romans 8:1. Jesus is there for you to have power over sin, "I can do everything through him [Jesus] who gives me strength." (Philippians 4:13) You put on the helmet of salvation when you are careful about what you allow to enter your mind. Another way to put on the helmet of salvation is to appreciate the gift of salvation that God and Jesus Christ have given you. Believe and have confidence that you will be delivered from sin and protected from the enemy Satan. "Since we belong to the day, let us be self-controlled, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet" (2 Thessalonians 5:8). You now have all the armor of God on. What is needed next is the tool to fight Satan with.

### **SWORD OF THE SPIRIT**

A Roman soldier's sword was normally a long broad knife with a handle. Some swords were sharp on both sides while others only on one side. They were carried in a sheath on the left side. The more a soldier used his sword, the more frequently he would need to sharpen it.

Our sword is the Word of God. Unlike the Roman soldier's sword that becomes dull with use, our sword becomes sharper and more effective as it is used. We keep our sword sharp when we study the Word of God and memorize scripture. When you memorize scriptures, they become a powerful weapon against Satan when he attempts to tempt you with wrong thoughts or actions. "All Scripture is God breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness" (2 Timothy 3:16). The last important part to our armor is...

### **PRAYER AND SUPPLICATION**

A Roman soldier would always keep in constant contact with his commander. This is especially true when a soldier is in battle. As a soldier in God's army, you need to keep in constant contact with your Commanders— God the Father and Jesus Christ. They are your spiritual leaders. You keep in contact by praying daily.

# Preparation

During the Feast of Tabernacles, you will have the privilege of leading your students to a greater understanding of what it means to put on the whole armor of God. While God's armor is spiritual, Paul has made our job easy by comparing it to the armor of a Roman soldier.

Why do we take the time to teach our children God's Word at the Feast of Tabernacles? The answer is that we desire them to walk in obedience to God with the ultimate goal of them receiving the gift of eternal life in God's family and Kingdom. To reach that goal we must teach and rely on the Holy Spirit to guide us and those we teach.

As your students are learning about the armor of God, they will also be instructed about the gift of salvation and how understanding and applying scripture in their life is of vital importance. The Feast of Tabernacles is a perfect time to teach that salvation is the means by which God, through Christ, saves man from the penalty of sin and gives him eternal life. This is so because this festival analogously acts out the Millennium. It is a time when the source of evil, Satan, will not be around.

The great truth that we want our students to grasp at the Feast of Tabernacles is that God does indeed speak to us through His Word. The Bible is the inspired Word of God and there are no errors. In addition, if God is to be known as our loving Heavenly Father, we must know His Word. However, just knowing His Word is not enough.

Knowing the Word does not automatically bring about living the truth. We must be obedient to what God has revealed to us through His Word.

Your job here at the Feast is to do more than just teach Biblical information, facts and help your students memorize scripture. It is important you help your students understand how what they are learning here at the Feast applies to their lives. Do not stress perfect recitation of scripture, but rather help your students to comprehend the meaning of scripture and explore how it applies to their life.

We want our students to realize that the Word of God is to be lived. They must know that the Bible is not just about memorizing facts and information, but it is the truth that they should be living.

You need to have the freedom to develop and create your lessons to meet the real needs of your students. The Word of God must be communicated at the level of the students' understanding. Activities and experiences need to be incorporated to encourage them to live God's way in their daily lives.

This Festival Planner has been designed to help you, the teacher. Use the materials in this book to give you creative ideas and guidance. We pray that the tools we've provided will help your ministry effective to the children in our church.

**HOW TO USE**

There are six lessons provided for the Feast. Prior to the Feast of Tabernacles read the lessons, go over the activity pages and craft ideas.

As in past years, it is our prayer that we have a different teacher each day. With six teachers, no one person is sacrificing the opportunity to hear the sermon and participate in worship service. Once everyone has chosen a day to teach and you know the lesson you are responsible for, choose the craft project(s) and go shopping for the supplies. The more you prepare, the greater success you will have.

Since we do not know how many children will attend Sabbath school at the Feast, it is best to prepare for a greater number of students. In order to save time, activities that require using scissors to cut out shapes should be done in advance. Once again, this depends on the age of your students. The crafts are an important part of the teaching process and the children really enjoy the craft time. The crafts help you guide your students in making abstract ideas such as trust, faith, love and obedience concrete.

All the activity pages are in the Planner. I will provide copies for each of the lessons so there is no need for you to make copies of the activity pages. The activity pages contain puzzles, coloring pages and activities that cover the armor of God. Emphasize with your students they are expected to bring their Bible to class each day.

Basic supplies, such as; paper, construction paper, crayons, felt tip pens, pencils, scissors and glue will be available for your use with your students.

Do not get discouraged if everything you do isn't a success. We, as teachers, are working toward being mature and complete. You will reach your highest potential as a teacher when you teach by example. Let your love for God, your Christian joy and your worshipful attitude inspire your students and help them joyfully worship and experience the love of God.

As you prepare for Sabbath school, go to God in prayer, asking He prepare your heart and mind. The children you've been entrusted to teach are waiting to hear about God from you.

# Discipline

As we teach our children about the things of God we can help them become aware of the foundation of godly behavior. We can prevent confusion and frustration by helping them understand what God requires of us. The first step is that they need to know the rules.

A frequently asked question is, "how do you handle discipline problems in the classroom?" This is an important question to answer because the teaching and learning process can be greatly hindered when member(s) of a class are out of control. To begin, you need to have a clear understanding about the difference between discipline and punishment. Next, you need to have a set of rules that you have gone over with your students and that they understand.

The purpose of discipline is to help the student develop self-control and grow in Christian maturity. In order for discipline to work, the student needs to have a positive attitude toward the rules and the standard of conduct that is expected of him. Eventually the external controls put on the student are replaced with inner controls because the student has internalized the values and standards.

The purpose of punishment is that a child suffers the consequences for wrong behavior. This is not the same as discipline. Discipline is used to conquer rebellion and bring a child to the point of submitting to the rules and authority. Discipline is about prevention, correction and guidance. Punishment is the consequences for doing wrong or sinful actions that have already taken place.

God disciplines those whom He loves, He-

brews 12:5-11. When God disciplines, He is always motivated by love. His purpose in correction is to develop self-motivated obedience and righteousness.

In new situations children are not always sure about what is expected of them. Knowing what they should do gives them a sense of security. There are times children just forget the boundaries and there are other times they will completely ignore the boundaries. As a teacher, you need to be aware of why your students are stepping outside the rules and deal with the situation accordingly.

Fortunately, God keeps the rules pretty simple—love Him, love others. He not only gives this code of conduct (the Ten Commandments), but He will help the humble heart to understand that His commandments are genuinely holy, just and good—just like Him.

It is important you be firm with your students, not harsh. You do not want to appear to be unkind or unloving toward any of your students. It will be impossible for you to communicate God's love if you do not love your students.

Children want to know the rules and they do respect and enjoy the security rules provide. The rules may be effectively communicated by the inflection in your voice. Shouting is not necessary. Always follow through on the directions and commands you have given. By all means, be consistent.

Jesus lived by the Ten Commandments and the rule to love God and love others. As He lived the code of conduct, He revealed the

true depths of God's Law. He explained very clearly that He did not come to do away with the Law but to fulfill it. And He was very clear about the intent of the Law. "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and Greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself" (Matthew 22:37-39). Jesus truly fulfilled the spirit of this great law of love by His life.

Some discipline techniques for when a child becomes out of control are as follows:

"And Patrick, after Zacchaeus climbed the tree he..." This tells Patrick you are well aware he is having a problem with self-discipline.

If you are walking around the room, casually walk over to a disruptive child and put your hand gently on his shoulder and shake your head, no. The child will know what you are doing.

When a child is working on a craft project at the worktable and is out of control, reach over and put your hand carefully on his and make eye contact. Continue the eye contact until he changes his behavior.

Above all never lose control and lash out physically or with verbal ridicule. Always show the child respect.

There are times it is necessary to remove a child from the room and talk with him about his behavior.

The key to success as stated before is in the preparation. The better prepared you are the more confidence you will have. It will also be obvious to your students that you take your Bible teaching seriously. Applying godly principles to our lives is a lifetime process. We need to absorb them into our hearts and minds in order to introduce them into action. When disruption occurs, you will be able to do something as simple as making eye contact or saying a child's name and continue the teaching process.

Cooperation from parents is essential if the best interest of the child is to be met. Do not

hesitate to talk to the parents of a child that is having a behavior problem in your classroom. You should not fear the parents' reaction. Parents can give insights as to why their child may be acting up. They also can correct the problem because they have the ultimate authority.

During your private prayer time, ask God for the direction and strength you need to love and help even the most unruly child. A child that is habitually out of control needs help. Talk to God about the child and He will give the wisdom you need to meet every child's needs. A child that is a continual problem should not be looked at like a problem but as one who needs help.

Whether we want to admit it or not, teachers can at times be the source of the problem. Therefore, you hold the key to the success of your classroom and solving any problems that may arise. Evaluate yourself first and then the surroundings. Ask yourself, "are there too many children for the space? Is the room clean and tidy? Is there disruptive noises coming from outside? Am I constantly being interrupted? Do I have plenty of materials so my students don't have to wait so long to use the scissors or crayons?"

As a teacher of God's Word, use the following certificates to help your students understand the rules you expect them to follow. Make a copy for each student to sign. A good time to hand out these certificates is on the first day of class. Go over the rules so everyone is aware of what is expected.



# The Storyteller

**Using a story to teach is an art, not a science. If storytelling were a science, everyone who volunteered to teach would be handed a formula and told to follow it. To get the correct results in a math problem you must follow an exact formula; this is not true of teaching or storytelling. If, however, you are willing to listen and put forth the effort, you can learn this "art."**

## **PURPOSE OF A STORY**

Every story has a purpose. Otherwise, why tell the story? Knowing the purpose of the story will help you tell the story well. The purpose of telling a Bible story is usually to convey information about people (or a particular person), crucial events, values, and appreciation for the truth of God.

## **PARTS OF A STORY**

Every story has an introduction, progression of events, climax and conclusion. While suggestions and ideas have been provided in these lessons, you may have a better idea. If you do, use it!

The introduction should be brief and create interest in what you plan to teach. The introduction must relate to the story, but not give the story away.

An introduction may be a question, a short illustration or it may tell about an event that takes place later in the story. The body of the story is where the progression of events takes place. You will have to determine how much or how little of the progression of events you will tell.

Keep in mind the age of your children. Young children will lose interest quickly with unneces-

sary details or if the action is slow.

The climax of the story is usually one statement. It is the high point of the story—where the problem or conflict is resolved.

Be brief with the conclusion. Don't wrangle on and on. Since the climax of the story has been revealed, the conclusion should bring everything together.

## **PREPARING FOR THE STORY**

Preparation is the most important part of storytelling. It is the essential salt that spices up a good story because you know the story inside out.

It is important that you read the entire story first. Read it for enjoyment. The second time you read the story take notes on how you want to adapt the story for your group of listeners. You may need to change the vocabulary as the concepts may be advanced and need simplification.

Or, there may be facts in the story that you need to explain or remove because they hurt the flow of the story for your audience. Be sure not to remove facts that are essential to the action of the story.

Facts of a story are important, but it is the understanding of how that story affects the students personally in their lives that will be most beneficial.

Your students need to understand how the story can be applied to their lives. Communicate more than facts—communicate the meaning of the scripture.

Older students may follow the story for

themselves in their Bible. For younger children, let the characters, situation and time of story speak for itself.

Preparation is the most time-consuming portion of teaching because you will need to read and reread the story and think it through from beginning to end.

Practice by telling the story aloud. If you are inclined, tape yourself and then listen to the tape. Look at yourself in a mirror while telling the story. What are your facial expressions?

Early on you will find that sitting in a quiet room at home in front of a mirror while a tape records your story is far easier than in front of a group of wiggly, distracting children.

### **PRESENTING THE STORY**

You are now well prepared to tell the Bible story.

Relax and enjoy sharing the story with your students. This is what it is all about and it should be a delightful experience for you and your students.

As you tell the story, maintain good eye contact with all your students. When you do this you are saying to them, "I am telling you the story."

Be sure your students are comfortable. Many teachers prefer sitting with the children gathered round them in chairs or sitting on the floor. It gives a feeling of closeness.

Some stories need gestures. By all means jump into action if needed. The most important thing is that you and your students are comfortable and connected.

Your voice is an instrument. Use it effectively to communicate the story. Speak clearly and with enthusiasm. Enthusiasm does not mean loud. It does mean with sincerity and with interest.

You may whisper, sing, speak sternly, shout, laugh or cry. Do not, however, speak fast. Effectively using your voice, facial expressions and gestures will come with practice and experience.

Always use dignity when telling the Bible story. Remember the purpose of telling a Bible story is to teach the very Word of God. It is not your purpose to merely entertain the children.

Interruptions are usually unavoidable. When they occur, answer the student's question or make a remark briefly, but go on with the story. Sometimes a child gets caught up in the story and just blurts out a comment. Don't make a huge deal of it; just acknowledge it and move on with the story. You at least know they are following the story and are interested.

Prior to storytelling, pray for yourself and your students. Ask God to help you prepare your heart and mind for this important opportunity to teach. Ask God to give you the understanding and godly wisdom needed to teach. Ask that He guide you as you teach your students.

Begin your prayer for guidance before you prepare to read the first story and continue the prayer as you learn the art of storytelling.

# Songs

## **"I WILL PUT GOD'S ARMOR ON"**

**EPHESIANS 6:11-18**

**TO THE TUNE OF "TWINKLE TWINKLE LITTLE STAR"**

With the start of each new dawn, I will put God's Armor on  
Bodice of Truth and Shield of Faith, Righteousness is my Breastplate  
Peace I cover my feet with, Salvation acts as my Helmet  
Words of God shall be my Sword, with my prayers I'll move forward  
With the start of each new dawn, I will put God's Armor on!

## **THE ARMOR OF GOD RAP**

I don't know, but I've been told  
The armor of God makes me strong and bold

See the helmet of salvation on my head?  
God took my sins and gave me salvation instead.

Is the breastplate of righteousness on my chest?  
Uh-huh! You can see that I'm wearin' God's best.

Is the belt of truth tied around my waist?  
Uh-huh! I'm wrapped up in God's grace.

Is the shield of faith strapped on my arm?  
Uh-huh! Satan's arrows will do me no harm.

Is the gospel of peace what I'm wearin' for shoes?  
Uh-huh! And I'm ready to tell the good news.

Got the sword of the Spirit, God's Holy Word?  
Uh-huh! And it's full of God's power, I've heard.

Thank you God, for these good gifts!  
Help me live as you want me to live.

# Games

**You are the teacher. A good teacher will learn his or her students' names. For some children their name is their most valuable possession. Teachers need to direct their students. The direction you move them is more important than the pace. Here are a few "get acquainted" things to do. Get to know your students and enjoy being a teacher!**

## **"I'VE GOT A TERRIBLE MEMORY..."**

- Take photos of students with a Polaroid camera and review them like flash cards.
- Repeat the name 3 or 4 times in your first conversations with the student (e.g., "It's great to meet you, Mary").
- Ask for identifying information. Associate the name with someone else you know with that name.
- Study the student's face while you're being introduced.
- Transfer the name to a concrete image to help you remember.
- Ask God to help you remember—we recollect what's important to us.
- Write the name down (on your hand, card, or scrap paper). The act of writing will help you remember.
- Have the student test you by asking—"What is my name?"
- If your class is too large to recall each student's name, use name tags.

## **DO YOU KNOW?**

- By the end of the Feast could you answer the following questions about your students?
- Do you know where they are from?
- Do you know how many siblings are in their family?
- Do you know who their parents are?
- Do you know what grade they are in?
- Do you know what they fear?
- Do you know their favorite foods and hobbies?
- Do you know who their minister is?

## **PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT**

**Time:** 10 minutes.

**Supplies:** 3 x 5 cards and pencils.

**Objective:** To encourage parents to be involved in what their children are learning in Sabbath school.

**Instructions:** Give your students a "question of the day" or a "question of the week" to take home. Their assignment is to get their parents' answers to the questions. Let the students in the group come up with the questions. Give them examples to consider such as, "What are the most important things in your life?"; "What gives you the greatest satisfaction in life?"; or a question from the lesson of the day, such as, "Where does God tell us about His Armor?" or "Why does a Christian need to wear the Armor of God?"

Questions such as these will open discussions between kids and their parents and will also provide excellent material for a group discussion in which your students compare parents' answers with their own.

**HOW TO BEE...****Time:** 5 minutes.**Supplies:** Chalkboard and chalk, dry-erase board and pens or large poster board and wide-tip pens.**Objective:** To encourage students to think about how their actions should reflect the teachings of Jesus.**Instructions:** On the board draw a picture of a beehive. On the bottom write, "Bee Helpful." Ask your students to think of as many "Bees" as they can that show they are followers of Christ.**THE NAME GAME****Time:** 6 minutes (may want to do this activity on the first day of class).**Supplies:** None.**Objective:** To learn the names of all your students.**Instructions:** Have everyone sit in a circle. Ask them to think about an object that begins with the first letter of their first name—e.g., Jill, jam; Bill, box.

Starting anywhere around the circle have someone begin the introductions by stating his or her first name along with finishing the following sentence: "While packing to go to the Feast of Tabernacles, I packed \_\_\_\_\_."

Whatever they packed begins with the first letter of their name. First person: "Hi my name is Nancy. While packing to go to the Feast of Tabernacles I packed nuts." Second person: Hi Nancy, my name is Bob. While packing for the Feast of Tabernacles I packed books." Third person: Hi, Nancy and Bob. My name is Whitney and while packing for the Feast of Tabernacles, I packed whistles" (and so on).

The person on the right repeats the first person's name, say "Hi, \_\_\_\_\_!" and states his or her own name in the same way. The game continues around the circle with each

student having to repeat the names of everyone who has gone before them. This means that the last person gets to name everyone! Whew!

To ensure success with this activity, below are some suggestions:

If you have a large group, break into smaller groups.

Students who are unable to come up with what they packed may ask the group for help.

Younger kids might name something that does not necessarily begin with the first letter of their name. For example: My name is Jill and I packed a pea.

**WHO ARE YOU?****Time:** 5 minutes.**Supplies:** Paper and pencils.**Objective:** To get to know your students and reinforce that they are important to you and to God.**Instructions:** Give each student a piece of paper and a pencil. Ask them to describe themselves in 15 words.

Either they can read what they wrote or you, the teacher, can read them and the students can guess who is being described.

**BLIND ART****Time:** 5 minutes.**Supplies:** Paper and pencils.**Objective:** To get the students' mind on the subject for the day. Use any picture that relates to the story of the day.**Instructions:** Give each student a piece of paper and pencil. You will say a word and they will draw a picture of a related item. Be sure your students keep their eyes closed while they draw their "picture." When the time is up—a minute is about enough—let them look and hear the laughter begin. Make the shift from the picture to the lesson.

# Belt of Truth

Ephesians 6:10-20



## Lesson 1 Zacchaeus

Luke 19:1-10

**Jesus spent the early part of His ministry around the Sea of Galilee. He ministered to the people in places such as Capernaum and Bethsaida. Our story begins as Jesus made His way toward Jerusalem, ministering in Judea and Perea. On His journey, He made a stop in Jericho where He met a tax collector named Zacchaeus.**

### INTRODUCTION

This is a story about a man named Zacchaeus (zak-KEY-us) who climbed a tree to get a glimpse of Jesus. Zacchaeus was a wealthy tax collector in Jericho who was despised by his fellow Jews. Tax collectors were usually Romans, but in this case Zacchaeus represented the Jews in Jericho. Tax collectors were known for cheating both the people and the government. They were considered traitors because they worked for the government and were allowed to collect more than the required amount of tax and keep the rest for themselves. Taxes during Jesus' day were levied on everything the Romans could think of.

It was common for the people to be reduced to poverty due to the enormous taxes. For a wealthy man such as this to climb a sycamore tree to have a mere sight of Jesus was an amazing action.

Zacchaeus must have been tired of living a life of corruption, temptation and greed. He must have been looking for a better life.

### PROGRESSION OF EVENTS

Have you ever been to a parade? Have you ever been to an event that an important or famous person was going to speak at? In a crowd it is sometimes hard to see what is going on especially if you are small. If you have experienced this, you will understand how Zacchaeus felt.

A tax collector named Zacchaeus was excited about seeing the Miracle Worker called Jesus. Jesus was coming through Jericho and Zacchaeus was determined to see Him.

As the people hurried to find a place to get a glimpse of Jesus, Zacchaeus, who was short,

ran ahead of the crowd and hurried up a sycamore tree. You may wonder why those in the crowd would not show kindness by allowing a short man a place to see. They did not help him because the people of Jericho felt betrayed by Zacchaeus. He agreed to collect the tax for the Romans who had taken over their city. The Jews saw Zacchaeus as a sinner. Zacchaeus was not the only sinner we are all sinners. In Romans 3:23 it says, "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Sin separates us from God and it hurts our relationships with others. Due to sin, Zacchaeus was separated from God and the people. He did not have friends.

As Jesus passed by, He stopped and spoke kindly to Zacchaeus. Who is Jesus? Yes, He is the Son of God. As such, He knows everything! Jesus not only knew Zacchaeus' name, He knew he was a sinner and He knew his heart. God knows all about each of us. Read Psalm 139:1-3. Jesus loved Zacchaeus the sinner. He wanted him to know Him and enjoy a better way of life. This is why Jesus stopped and took the time to speak to him. Jesus not only took the time to talk to Zacchaeus, but He invited himself to Zacchaeus' home. When Jesus said, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately, I must stay at your house today" Zacchaeus jumped from the tree and immediately welcomed Jesus.

The people were surprised that Jesus spoke to Zacchaeus and they murmured that He would be a guest in Zacchaeus' home. The citizens of Jericho saw Zacchaeus as a sinner, and they turned their backs on the man because of the sin. We all need to learn how to love the person and hate the sin. Jesus saw Zacchaeus as a man of value and as one who had a desire to change. Jesus is there for anyone who invites Him into his life.

### CLIMAX

Zacchaeus believed and had faith in Jesus. He knew he was a sinner and that others despised him. This did not stop him from desiring a better way of life. He was sorry for his sin and he now had a desire to please God.

### CONCLUSION

Zacchaeus promised to give half of his pos-

sessions to the poor. He promised to return what he had stolen and he said he would pay back four times the amount of what he had taken. He was sorry for his sins and he proved his desire to change by taking action.

### STRONG BELT OF TRUTH

Zacchaeus learned the importance of putting on the strong belt of truth. How can you put on the strong belt of truth? You should attend church on the Sabbath, keep the Holy Days, read your Bible, pray and memorize scripture. Another important way to put on the belt of truth is to always be honest. Jesus is the way, the truth and the life (John 14:6). When you pray, ask Him to help you to always tell the truth. Do you know who your biggest enemy is? Satan, that is right. Jesus called Satan the "father of lies" (John 8:44). Satan does not want you to be truthful. Jesus will help you face the enemy without fear, to always tell the truth and have a clear conscience. Your conscience will be clear because you wear the strong belt of truth.

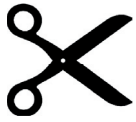
### MEMORY VERSE

"...I will be sorry for my sin" (Psalm 38:18).

### QUESTIONS

For class discussion ask your students any of the following:

1. Do you think it was easy for Zacchaeus to go to those he had cheated and return to them what he had taken?
2. Why do you think it is hard to do what is right?
3. How did Jesus show love and kindness to Zacchaeus?
4. Are we all sinners? Can you give a scripture that backs up your answer?
5. Explain the meaning of the belt of truth.
6. What did Zacchaeus do for a living?
7. Why did the people dislike the tax collector?
8. How did Zacchaeus show that he had faith?
9. How do you put on the belt of truth?
10. What kind of a tree did Zacchaeus climb to get a glimpse of Jesus?



## CRAFT: PAPER BELT OF TRUTH

### MATERIALS

- 5 to 6 pieces of different colored construction paper
- Stapler
- Scissors
- Glue
- Type or write and print out the word "TRUTH" (one per student).

### DIRECTIONS

1. Cut out 3" x 12" strips of varying colored paper strips.
2. You will need at least 5-6 strips.
3. Cut into 3" x 3" squares.
4. Overlap squares and glue squares together, making one long "belt".
5. Glue the word "TRUTH" on to the center of the belt.
6. Measure belt so it fits the waist of child and staple in place around child. Be careful not to staple belt to clothing!



## CRAFT: ZACCHAEUS IN A TREE

### MATERIALS

- Paper plate, green tissue paper
- Scissors, pencil, glue
- Brown construction paper
- Tagboard, spring clothespin
- Crayons or markers

### DIRECTIONS

1. Cut tissue squares, twist them around the end of a pencil, and glue them to the plate.
2. Cut a rectangular tree trunk from brown construction paper and glue it to the bottom of the plate.
3. Cut a piece of tagboard the size of the clothespin.
4. Use crayons or markers to draw Zacchaeus on the piece of tagboard.
5. Glue the piece of tagboard onto a clothespin.
6. Use the clothespin and tree to tell the story of Jesus and Zacchaeus.



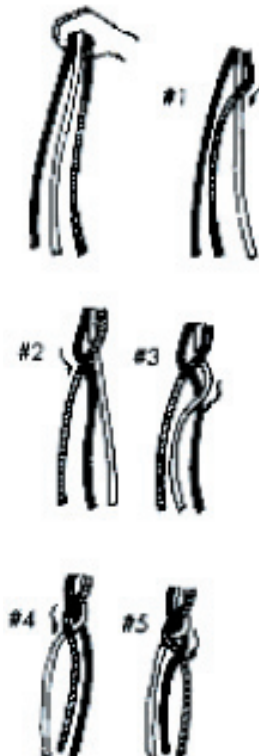
## CRAFT: CLOTH BELT OF TRUTH

### MATERIALS

- Three strips of cloth for each student (1 inch wide and 2 yards long)

### DIRECTIONS

1. Give each student three strips of fabric.
2. Have your students work in pairs. One student holds one end of three of the strips while the other student does the braiding.
3. Then have the students switch roles, and help his partner make his belt.





Zacchaeus came to hear Jesus preach. When he climbed up in a tree he could see. He told Jesus He was sorry for the wrong things he had done, and Jesus forgave him. Draw a crowd of people.



"You, Lord, are good, and ready to forgive."  
Psalm 86:5

### GIRD YOUR WAIST WITH TRUTH

(Ephesians 6:14)

A Roman soldier would have worn a belt around his waist. How do you wear the belt of truth? Fill in the sentences below with the correct word from the list:

**truthful      church      Bible      honest      memorize**

You attend \_\_\_\_\_ every Sabbath.

You study your \_\_\_\_\_ daily.

You \_\_\_\_\_ scriptures.

You are \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

Remember, when you obey God's law and commandments, and do all the above, you are becoming like Jesus Christ, who is Truth.

Look up John 14:6 and write the verse in the space below.

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### ZACCHAEUS AND JESUS

Find the answer to each math problem. Write the word from each problem on the line that matches the answer number.

**PROFILE:**  
Who is this man up a tree?



Name: 1 \_\_\_\_\_


Place of residence: 2 \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation: 3. \_\_\_\_\_

Personal notes: 4 \_\_\_\_\_

5 \_\_\_\_\_

6 \_\_\_\_\_



Zacchaeus  
 $(34 \div 2) - (2 \times 8) =$

tax collector  
 $(10 \times 3) - 27 =$

short  
 $75 \div 15 =$

rich  
 $(72 \div 9) \div 2 =$

hated by many  
 $29 - 24 + 1 =$

Jericho  
 $17 + 29 - 44 =$

Fit the words from the list on the lines.

- |         |           |
|---------|-----------|
| life    | promised  |
| home    | welcomed  |
| repay   | Zacchaeus |
| cheated |           |



**FOLLOW-UP REPORT...**

Our man in the sycamore tree,  
 \_\_\_\_\_,  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus  
 into his \_\_\_\_\_ and  
 his \_\_\_\_\_. He  
 \_\_\_\_\_ to  
 had \_\_\_\_\_ people that he  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 in the past.

**I obey God by telling the truth.**



Do not lie to one another.  
Colossians 3:9

# Breastplate of Righteousness

Ephesians 6:10-20



## Lesson 2 Good Samaritan Luke 10:25-37

**Jesus spent two years of His ministry in Galilee. Jesus performed miracles and began His teachings in Judea and Perea, territories near Jerusalem. It was after Jesus healed a blind man that an expert on the Law of Moses asked Jesus about eternal life. Jesus answered his question by telling a story. The story Jesus told was a parable about a Samaritan who helped an injured traveler.**

### INTRODUCTION

Samaria was located in the middle of Israel, Judea being to the south and Galilee to the north. When the Assyrians captured the city of Samaria in 721 B.C., they deported many Israelites and populated the area with foreigners captured from other lands. The Israelites, who remained, intermarried with the foreigners. When the exiled Israelites returned to Samaria, they did not accept the offspring of the intermarried as true Israelites. It was believed that this mixed race did not adhere to the same rules of Judaism as the people in Judea and Galilee. Consequently, the lack of acceptance of this race brought about an intense hatred between the Samaritans and

the Jews. The road traveled from Jerusalem to Jericho was known as "The Way of Blood." The road was a steep, rugged and rocky road. It was the perfect road for criminals and thieves to hide and take advantage of the unsuspecting traveler. Jesus told of a priest and a Levite in the parable of the Good Samaritan because they lived in Jericho and would travel to Jerusalem to worship in the temple.

### PROGRESSION OF EVENTS

What does it mean to be a good neighbor? Is it easy to be kind to someone you do not particularly like? In order to truly love God, each of us needs to show His love to others and this is the lesson we learn from today's story.

One day there was a lawyer who decided to test Jesus about the law. He asked, "Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" A lawyer was an expert in explaining God's law. The lawyer's question was not sincere. We know this because the scripture says the lawyer stood up and "tested Him." This lawyer may have thought that he could earn eternal life by doing good works. We know this is not true because the Bible says, "for whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just

one point is guilty of breaking all of it" (James 2:10). While we should always strive to do what is right and good, it is not our good deeds that will get us in the kingdom, but rather Jesus who paid the ultimate price for our sins. Jesus paid the punishment for the sins of mankind.

Jesus answered the lawyer with a question. "What is written in the Law? How do you read it?"

The lawyer answers Jesus by quoting Deuteronomy 6:5 and Leviticus 19:18. "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind; and love your neighbor as yourself."

Jesus tells the lawyer, "you have answered correctly, do this and you will live."

Next the lawyer asks, "Who is my neighbor?" He did not ask about how he could go about loving his neighbor but instead he wanted Jesus to define whom his neighbor was.

Jesus answered the lawyer with a parable.

"A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead.

A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side." A priest who served God by offering sacrifices and leading worship services in the temple did not stop to help his neighbor.

"So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him (the hurt man), passed by on the other side." A Levite would assist the priest in the temple. Just as the priest would know the law so too the Levite would know it.

"But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him." The Samaritan, whose people were despised by the Jews because their race was Gentile and Jewish stopped to help the

injured man.

"He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, took him to an inn and took care of him. The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.'" The Good Samaritan did more than just help the wounded man he paid for all his expenses that were incurred as the innkeeper took care of him. Inns during Bible times were not like we have today. Their purpose was first and foremost to protect you from the environment. Some inns did not have innkeepers.

Jesus now asked the lawyer, "Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?"

### **CLIMAX**

The expert in the law answered Jesus, "The one who had mercy on him." Jesus brought the lawyer to the realization that it wasn't the priest or Levite who obeyed God's law and loved their neighbor, but the Samaritan. Jesus then encouraged him to do likewise.

### **CONCLUSION**

A neighbor is not just the person you like or who looks or believes just like you do. A neighbor is anyone and everyone you come in contact with. If you truly want to show love and obedience to God, you must show God's love to all people.

### **BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS**

What important part of the body is covered by a breastplate? Correct, the heart. A Roman soldier's breastplate would cover him from his neck to waist both the front and back. We put on the breastplate of righteousness when we live our life right before God. God made us with the ability to choose between right and wrong. When one chooses to tell the truth and not lie, to be kind and not hateful, to obey and not disobey, he chooses righteous living. It is the choosing the right way of life that protects one's heart with the breastplate of righteousness.

**MEMORY VERSE**

"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you" (Ephesians 4:32).

**QUESTIONS**

For class discussion ask your students any of the following:

1. Why didn't the Jews like the Samaritans?
2. Why was the road to Jericho known as "The Way of Blood?"
3. What does Deuteronomy 6:5 say?
4. Why do you think Jesus used parables to teach lessons and answer questions?
5. Who was a neighbor to the lawyer—only someone that was Jewish?
6. Do you think it was easy for the lawyer to admit that the Samaritan was the good neighbor? Why?
7. Is it easy to show love to your enemies or those who are different than you?
8. What does it mean to put on the breastplate of righteousness?

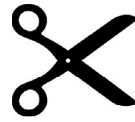
**CRAFT: PROMISE HAND****MATERIALS**

- Construction paper
- Pencils
- Felt tip pens
- Scissors

**DIRECTIONS**

1. Fold construction paper horizontally so one side is about 5 inches wide and the other side is about 7 inches wide.
2. Children place their hand on the 7 inch side with their wrist at the fold and their fingertips near the top of the paper and trace around their hand.
3. Then each child carefully cuts around the outline of his hand and fingers and along the fold line.
4. The hand and fingers should stand up with the 5 inch side of the paper serving as a base.
5. On the palm of the hand, the children should write: "I promise to help with the..." and on each finger, they should write a daily or weekly task they will do at home. They should also write neatly the Bible verse listed

above, Ephesians 6:1, on the wrist area of the hand.

**CRAFT: FOIL BREASTPLATE****MATERIALS**

- Brown paper grocery bag for each student
- Scissors
- Aluminum foil
- Transparent tape

**DIRECTIONS**

1. Cut the aluminum foil into 1x2 inch strips. Each student will need approximately seventy of these strips. If you have a large number of first—or second-grade children, make the paper bag tunics ahead of time.
2. Give each student a pair of scissors and a brown paper grocery bag.
3. Demonstrate how to cut down the center of one of the 'wide' sides until the bottom of the bag is reached.
4. Show the students how to cut a wide circle in the bottom of bag. Explain that when the bag is upside down it looks kind of like a vest. Have students cut circles on the narrow sides of the bags to make armholes.
5. Set out the foil strips and transparent tape. Show students how to tape the top of the strips to the bag to create 'scales' of armor. Encourage students to tape their foil pieces as close together as possible and to cover the bag with scales.



### THE GOOD SAMARITAN

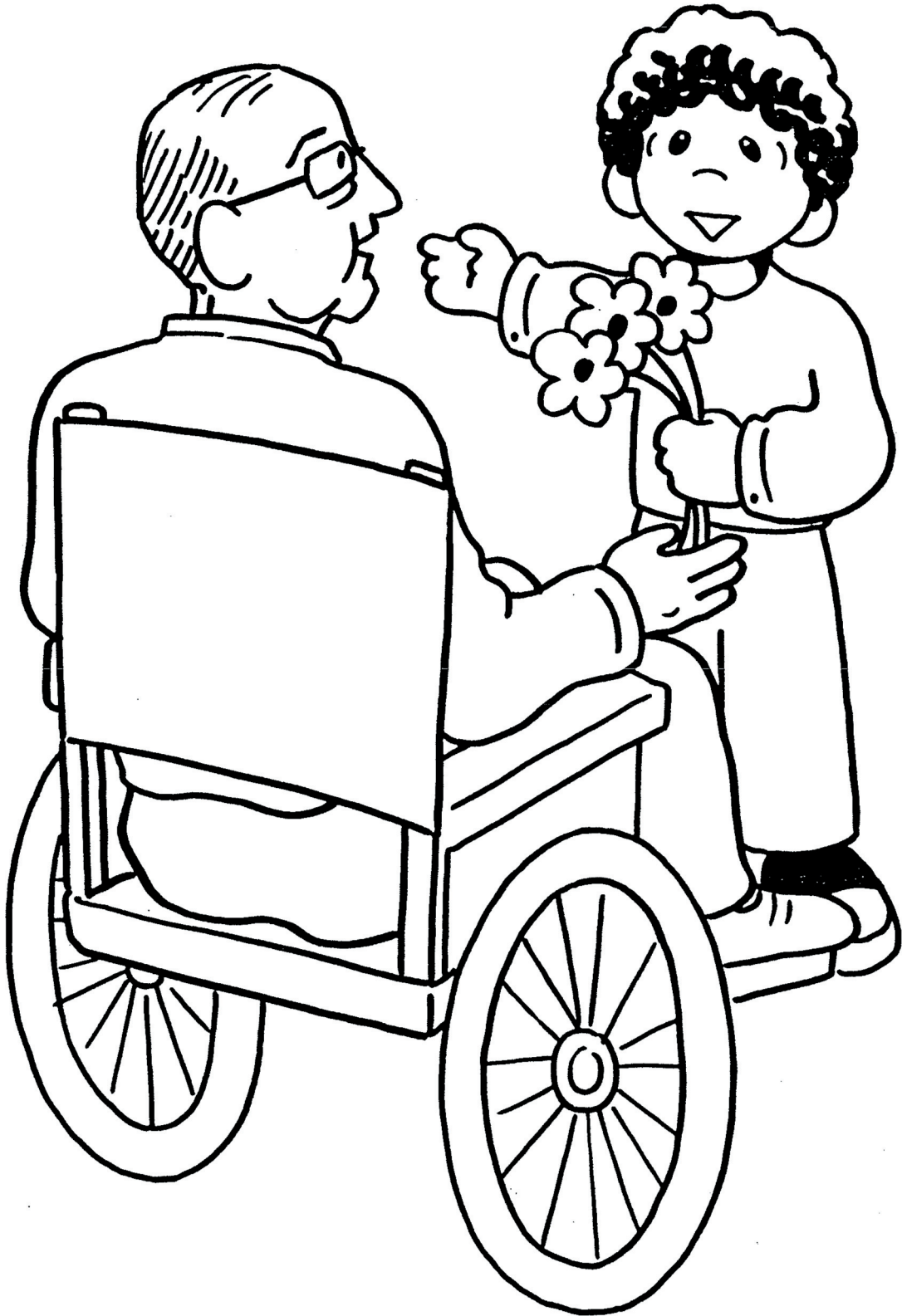
The religious leaders didn't help the injured man, but a good Samaritan did.

Color the picture.





**The Bible teaches me to be kind and loving to others.**



**Be kind to one another.  
Ephesians 4:32**

### THE GOOD SAMARITAN

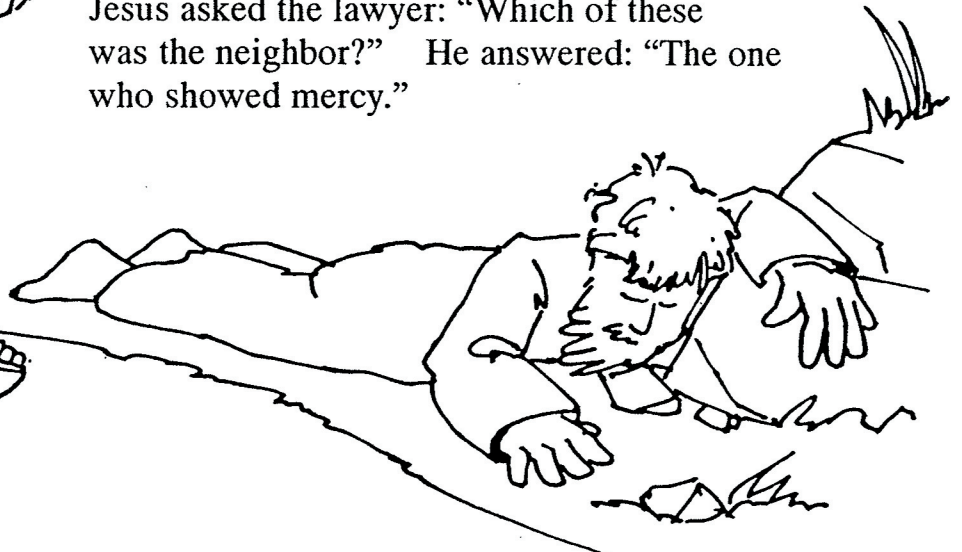
The lawyer then asked, "And who is my neighbor?" Jesus answered with a parable.

Use the code to finish the story:

A = Z	N = M
B = Y	O = L
C = X	P = K
D = W	Q = J
E = V	R = I
F = U	S = H
G = T	T = G
H = S	U = F
I = R	V = E
J = Q	W = D
K = P	X = C
L = O	Y = B
M = N	Z = A

A N Z M was going from Q V I F H Z O V N to Q V I R X S L. On the way, he was Z G G Z X P V W by I L Y Y V I H. They H G I R K K V W him, Y V Z G him up and left him half-W V Z W by the road. Soon a K I R V H G came by. He X I L H H V W to the other side, rather than S V O K. Then a O V E R G V came along and did the same thing. Next came a H Z N Z I R G Z M. He saw the R M Q F I V W man and H G L K K V W to S V O K. He Y Z M W Z T V W his wound, put him on his donkey and took him to an R M M. The next morning, the Samaritan had to leave... but he left N L M V B for his X Z I V. He promised to return to pay any other expenses.

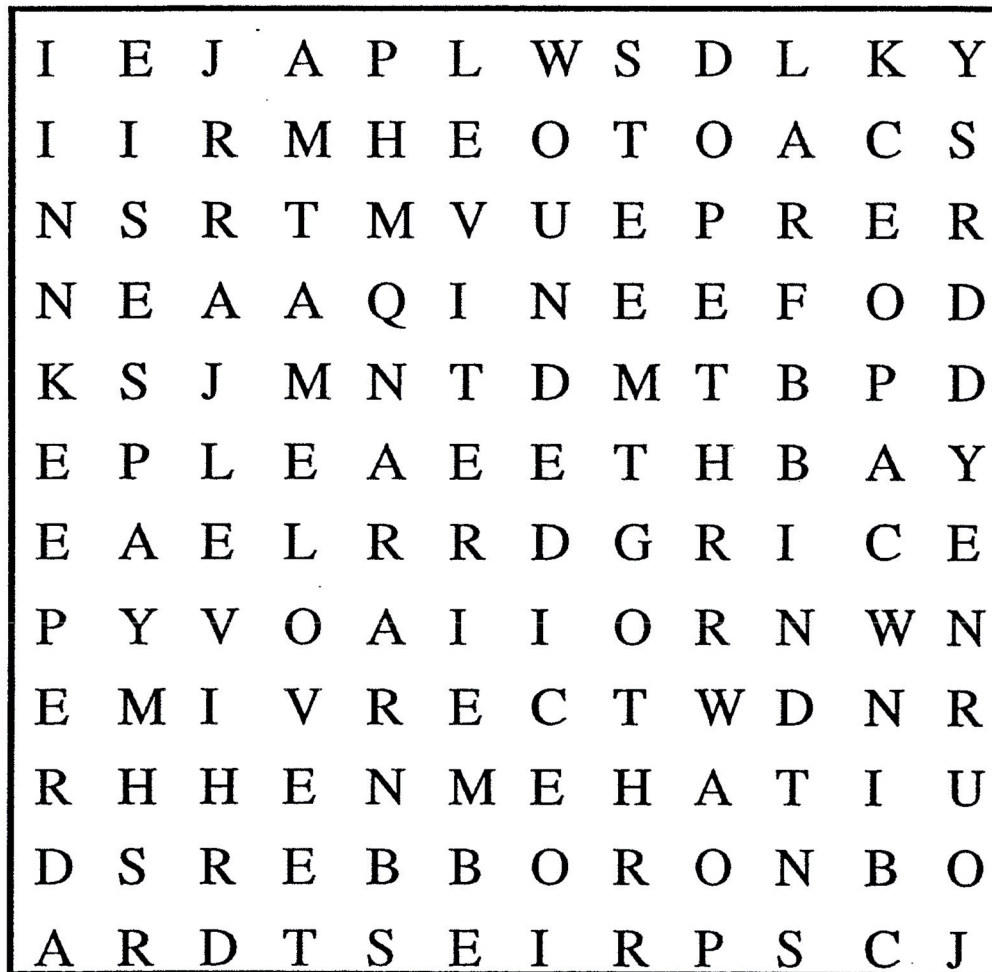
Jesus asked the lawyer: "Which of these was the neighbor?" He answered: "The one who showed mercy."



**THE GOOD SAMARITAN**

Luke 10:25-37

Read the Scriptures. Find the words hidden in the word search puzzle below.



ROBBERS	SAMARITAN	JERICOH
DEAD	INN KEEPER	JOURNEY
PRIEST	MERCY	LOVE
NEIGHBOR	BIND	TWO
LEVITE	WOUNDED	DENARII

## BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

A Roman soldier's breastplate would cover him from his neck to his waist, both the front and back.

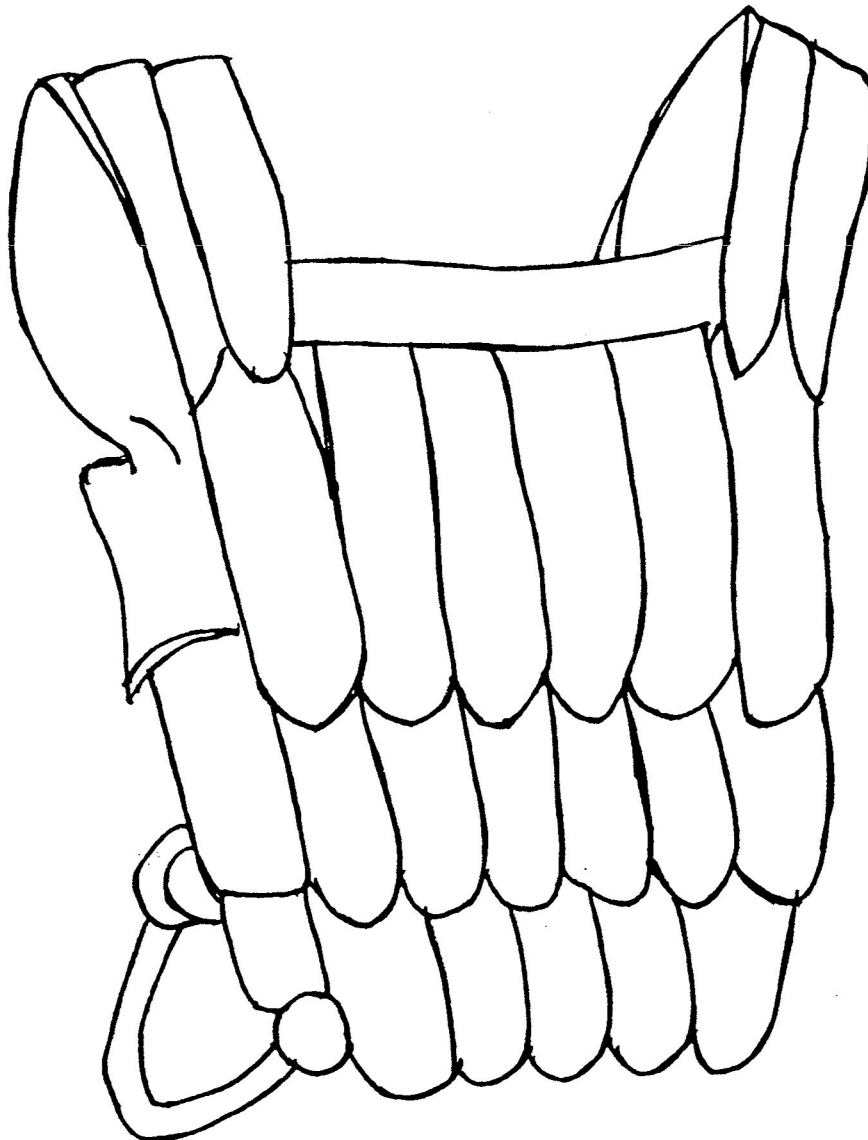
What vital organ would be protected? \_\_\_\_\_

(Unscramble the following letters for the answer: T R E A H

How do you put on the breastplate of righteousness?

Tell the truth, never lie.  
Be kind to others and be helpful.  
Obey all of God's laws and commandments.

Color the breastplate of righteousness.



# Feet Shod with the Gospel of Peace

Ephesians 6:10-20



## Lesson 3

### Widow's Oil

I Kings 17:7-16

In order to keep peace in the land, King Solomon married the daughters of foreign kings. The women he married brought with them their foreign gods. This resulted in the Israelites worshipping the false gods and forgetting the one true God. Not only did many of the Israelites turn from God, but Solomon did as well. When Solomon died, the kingdom divided in two. The Southern Kingdom, Judah was ruled by the heirs of David and Solomon. The Northern Kingdom, Israel was ruled by others. Both kingdoms had many kings and most of them were evil. At the time of today's story, Jezebel the Phoenician princess was Ahab the King's wife. Jezebel was not an Israelite. She was an evil woman. She brought pagan gods to Israel and led the people to worship them. She persecuted the prophets of God and killed many of them. The first time we read about the Prophet, Elijah is in I Kings 17. Elijah was a settler in Gilead, which is east of the Jordan River near a community called Tishbe. His name means "Yahweh Is God." Elijah was a

man of prayer and he had deep concern for his nation (James 5:17).

#### INTRODUCTION

God sent the prophet Elijah to Ahab's palace in Samaria with the warning that there would be no rain for three and a half years. Without rain, the land dried up and the crops failed. For a time, Elijah hid from Ahab and his evil wife Jezebel by the Brook Cherith where ravens fed him. God then sent Elijah to Zarephath till the famine ended. It is here that a miracle provided oil and flour for a widow.

#### PROGRESSION OF EVENTS

Elijah had been staying by the Brook Cherith. Sometime later the brook dried up and God commanded him to go to Zarephath where God said a widow would supply food for him.

When Elijah came to Zarephath, he saw a widow gathering sticks. He asked, "would you bring me a little water in a jar so I may have a drink?" As the widow went to get water, Elijah called out again and said, "And bring me, please, a piece of bread." Imagine asking a poor widow for water and bread when she

and her son were near starvation.

The widow replied, "As surely as the Lord your God lives, I don't have any bread—only a handful of flour in a jar and a little oil in a jug. I am gathering a few sticks to take home and make a meal for myself and my son, that we may eat it—and die." Elijah's request was a test of faith for both he and the widow.

Elijah assured the widow that God would provide. He told her to return home and do as she had planned. But first, "make a small cake of bread for me from what you have and bring it to me. Then make something for yourself and your son. Remember, the widow had said all she had was a handful of flour in a jar and a little oil in a jug.

Elijah continued, "the Lord told me that the jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day the Lord gives rain on the land."

The widow returned home and did just as Elijah had instructed her.

### **CLIMAX**

As promised, there was food every day for Elijah, the woman and her son. The jar of flour was never used up and the jug of oil never ran dry.

### **CONCLUSION**

There is no need or request too great for God to provide. "And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19). God does not say He will supply all our wants, but He does say He will supply our needs. God knows you, and He knows your needs better than you do. When prayers are not answered it does not mean God does not care. He may be helping you to develop patience or faith. Elijah had no idea how God would provide for him, but he trusted God's promise to provide for him, the widow and her son.

### **FEET SHOD WITH THE GOSPEL OF PEACE**

A Roman soldier wore shoes different than the ones we wear today. When they went into battle their feet were protected. They

wore shoes made of leather with hobnails on the bottom. This kept them sure-footed and strong in battle, not slippery. How do you put on the shoes of the gospel of peace? You need to pray each day and ask for God's peace. You will have peace when you believe God forgives your sins and that He loves you. Jesus Christ is our peace (Ephesians 2:14). When you obey God you please Him. When you please God your feet are shod with the gospel of peace because you have put Jesus Christ in your life. Consequently, you become a positive example for others because you will be kind, tenderhearted, forgiving, building up and not tearing down.

### **MEMORY VERSE**

"Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you." (1 Peter 5:7).

### **QUESTIONS**

For class discussion ask your students any of the following:

1. What does Elijah's name mean?
2. What was the name of the Brook the ravens came to and fed Elijah?
3. Was Elijah a prophet?
4. Define prophet.
5. Do you think it was easy for the widow to feed Elijah before her son?
6. How did the widow know there would be enough flour and oil?
7. What does it mean to trust God?
8. Was there ever something you felt you really needed and God did not supply it?
9. Does this mean God does not keep His promises?
10. God nourished Elijah physically, how did He nourish Elijah's faith?
11. How did God provide for the widow and her son?
12. How does God care for you?



### CRAFT: PAPER JUG

#### MATERIALS

- Scissors
- Pencils
- One sheet of construction paper for each student
- Photocopy the jug pattern for each student

#### DIRECTIONS

1. Fold the pattern along the dotted line and the construction paper in half.
2. Have students trace the jug pattern onto their construction paper.
3. Cut out jug and unfold.
4. Have your students tell you what was in the jug.

Example: What did the woman have stored in the jug? Yes, oil. What did the woman have store in a jar? Yes, flour. The oil and flour didn't run out, just as God had promised. Elijah, the woman and her son had enough to eat.



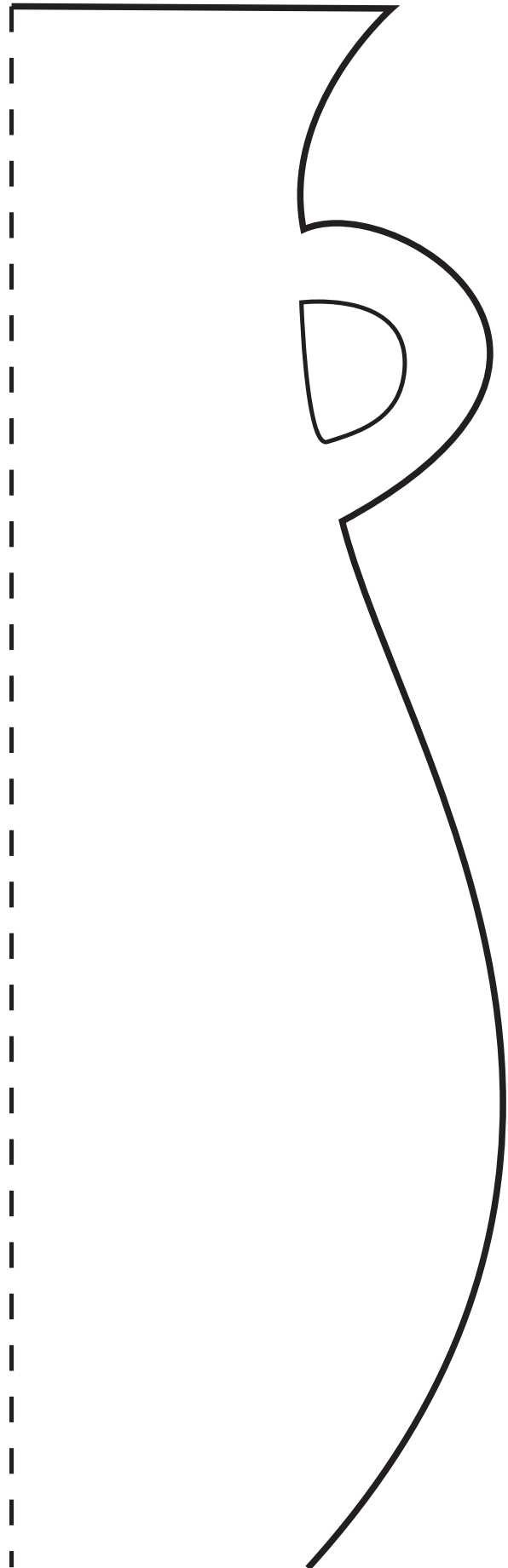
### CRAFT: SANDALS

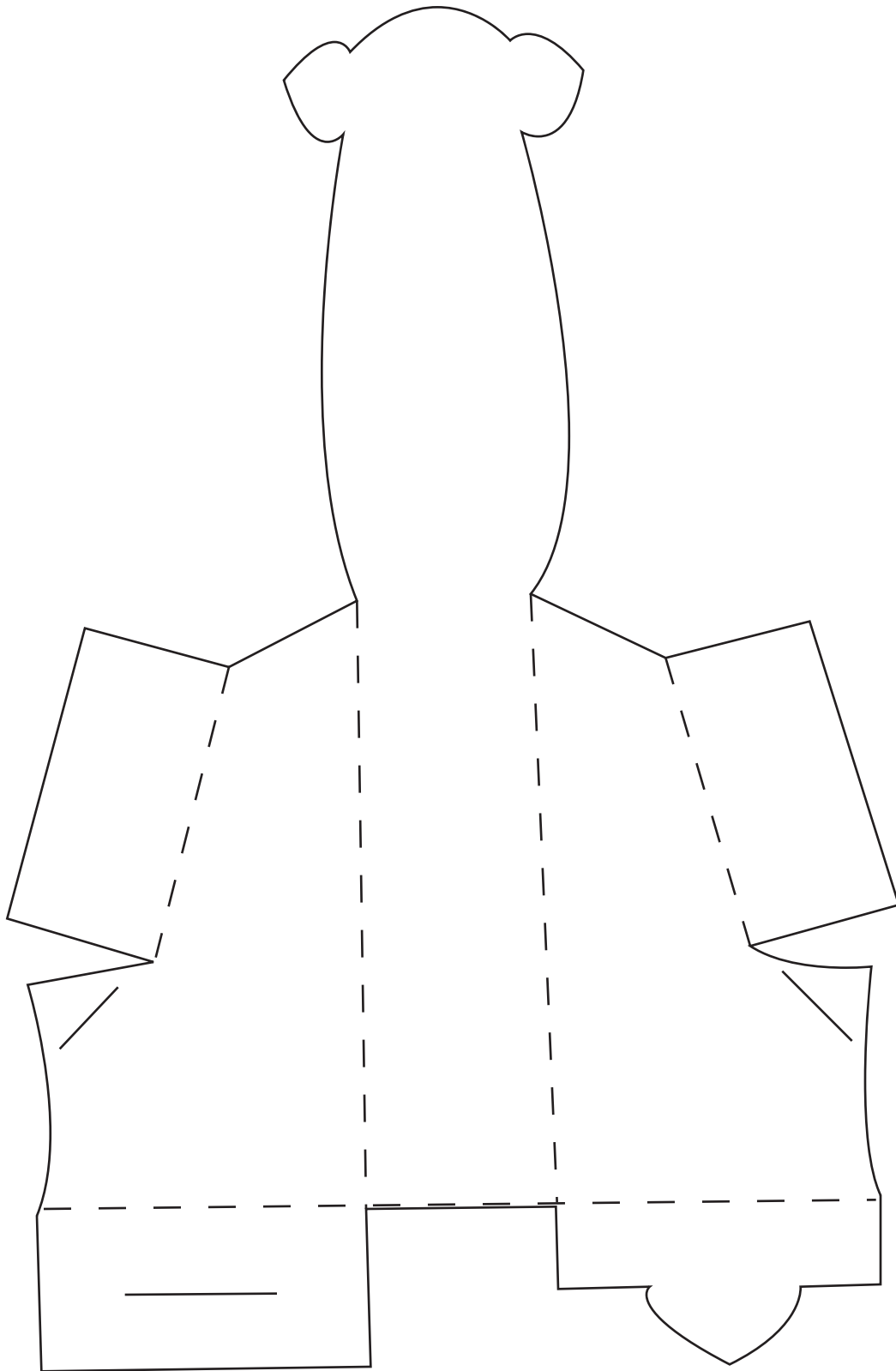
#### MATERIALS

- Shoe pattern (on following page)
- Scissors

#### DIRECTIONS

1. Before class, use an X-Acto knife to open the three slits in the shoe pattern.
2. Have the students cut out the shoes and fold up (valley folds) on the dotted lines.
3. Show them how to slip the tabs on the "tongue" of the shoe into the slits on the top and how to slip the tab at the back of the shoe into the slit at the back.









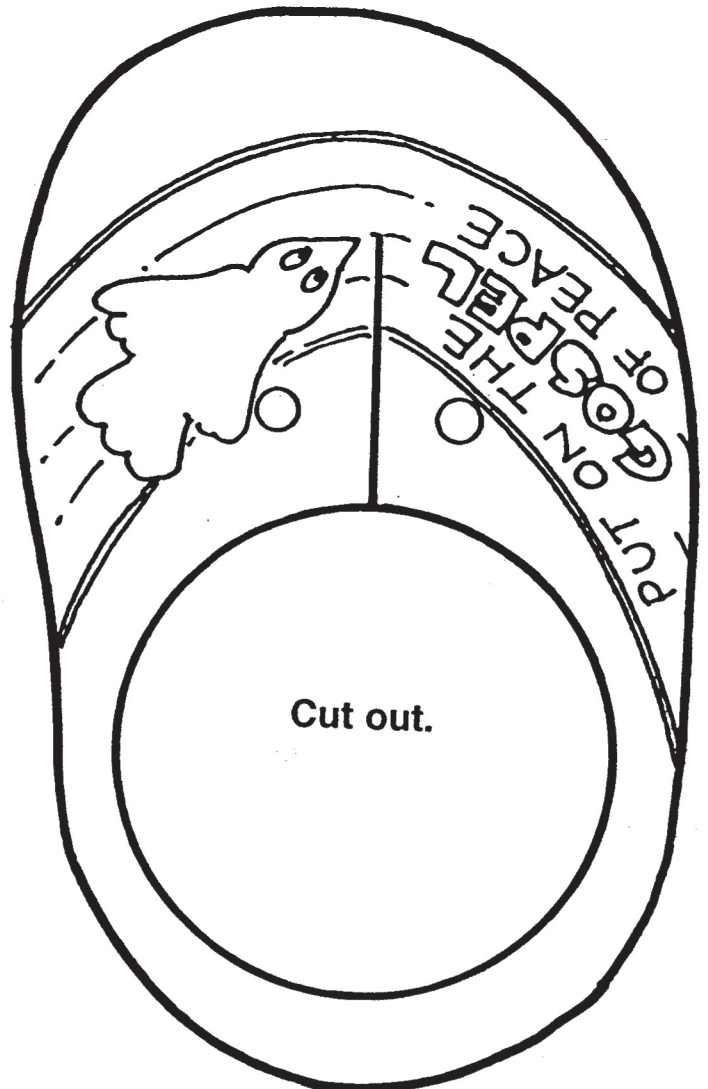
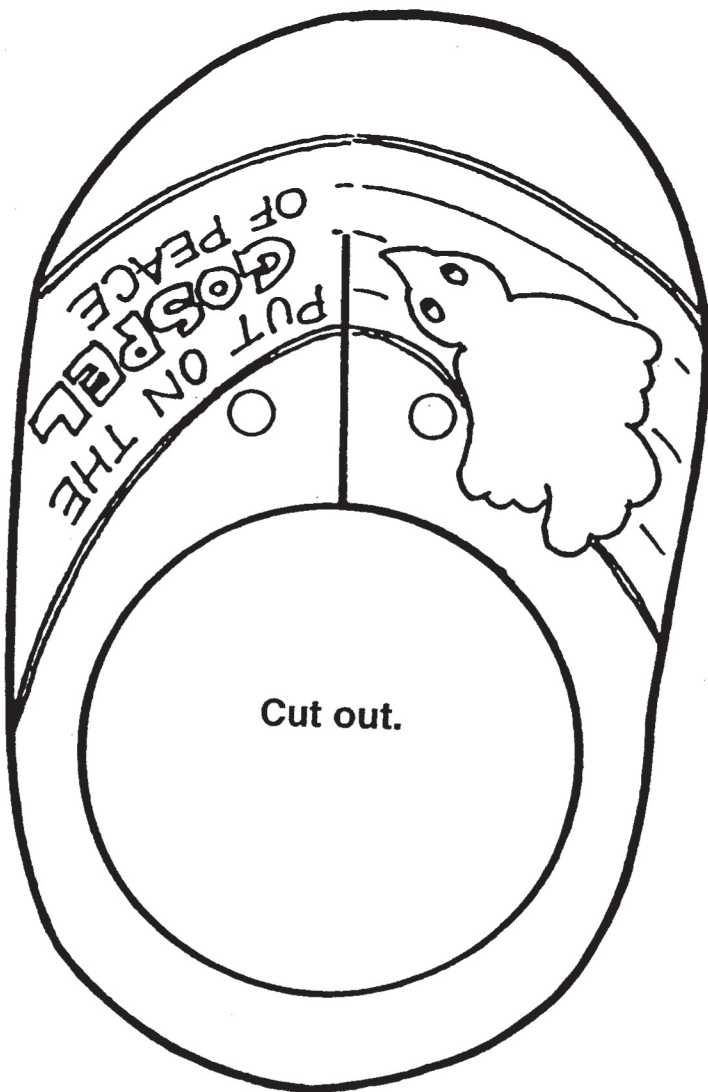
## CRAFT: FEET SHOD WITH THE GOSPEL OF PEACE

### MATERIALS

- Make a copy of the shoes on this page.
- Heavy construction paper.
- Crayons
- Scissors
- Yarn

### DIRECTIONS

1. Glue a copy of the shoes on a piece of heavy construction paper.
2. Color and cut out the shoes. Be sure to cut out the center and the small holes for the shoestrings.
3. Thread a 12" piece of yarn into each hole and tie.



God promises to us that when we give to others He will give us everything we need. Circle the things in the picture that you would give to someone who needed them. Then color the picture.



"God loves a cheerful giver."  
2 Corinthians 9:7

**A TRUSTING WIDOW AND SON**

1 Kings 17:1-16

Read the Scriptures. Find the words hidden in the word search puzzle below. The words may run diagonally, up, down, across or backwards.



- |        |           |        |         |          |
|--------|-----------|--------|---------|----------|
| ELIJAH | CHERITH   | WIDOW  | OIL     | CRUSE    |
| GILEAD | BROOK     | STICKS | WASTED  | FEAR     |
| AHAB   | RAVENS    | WATER  | NOT     | NOT      |
| DEW    | FED       | BREAD  | FAITH   | MERCY    |
| RAIN   | ZAREPHATH | MEAL   | DROUGHT | TISHBITE |

This widow was very poor. She and her son had only a handful of flour in a jar and a little oil in a jug. She did as the prophet Elijah told her and made a small cake of bread for him first. God provided food for the widow and her son. They did not go hungry.



“Give, and it will be given to you”  
Luke 6:38



**FIND THE HIDDEN SHAPES**

How many of the footwear can you find? There are 10 hidden in the picture.

## FEET SHOD WITH THE GOSPEL OF PEACE

A Roman soldier wore shoes different than the ones we wear today. However, when they went into battle, their feet were protected. They wore shoes made of leather with hobnails on the bottom of their shoes. This kept them sure-footed and strong in battle, not slippery.

How do we put on the shoes of the gospel of peace?

Pray each day and ask for God's peace.

Realize that God loves you and everyone else.

Jesus Christ is our peace. Look up Ephesians 2:14 and write the scripture below:

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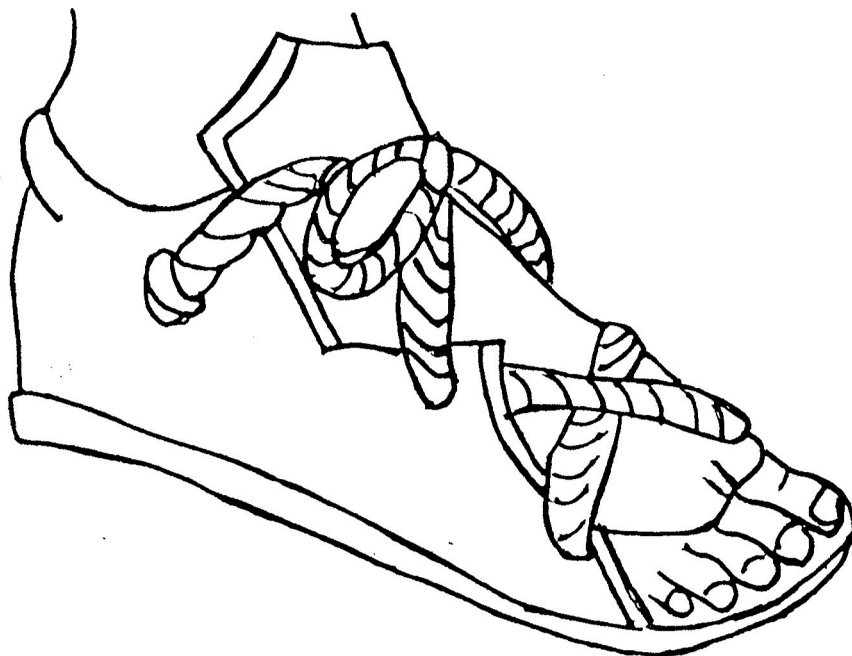
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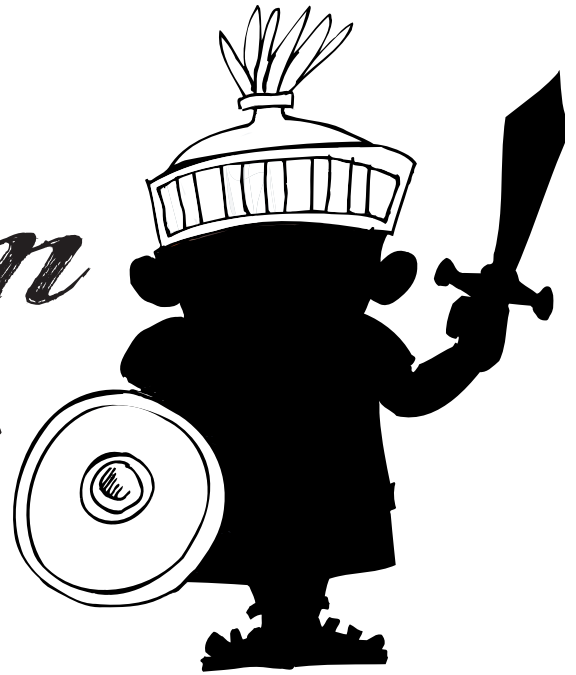
When you obey God you please Him and then your feet are shod with the gospel of peace. You will be a positive example to others. You will be walking in peace because you have put Jesus Christ in your life.

Color the foot shod in the gospel of peace.



# Helmet of Salvation Shield of Faith

Ephesians 6:10-20



## Lesson 4 Faith of a Centurion

Luke 7:1-10

**A centurion (sen-TOUR-ee-un) was a Roman soldier who would work his way up the ranks. He was a commander over 100 soldiers. He was not a daredevil, but rather a man who was cautious, courageous and kept his cool in times of crisis and battle. The five centurions spoken of in the New Testament were men of integrity and strength of character. The centurion in today's story showed respect and tremendous tact in how he approached Jesus. He was well aware of the tension between the Jewish leaders and Christ. He did not allow Jesus to enter his home and he used a mediator to make contact with Jesus.**

### INTRODUCTION

Jesus had been criticized by the Pharisees for gathering grain for his disciples and healing a man with a withered hand on the Sabbath. In spite of His critics, Jesus continued to teach the people. It was after these miracles Jesus spent an entire night in prayer. Afterward, He chose the twelve men who would be His apostles. It was on a mountain in Galilee that Jesus gave "The Sermon on the Mount." As Jesus was returning to Capernaum He was

met by Jewish elders that were sent by a centurion. They pleaded with Jesus to come and heal the centurion's servant.

### PROGRESSION OF EVENTS

There was a centurion who sought the help of Jesus. He had a slave that was sick and he was very fond of him.

The centurion saw past the bitter battle that was taking place between the Jewish religious rulers and Jesus. He valued who Jesus was. He sent some Jewish elders to Jesus, asking Him to come and heal his servant.

The elders begged Jesus to come. They said the centurion deserved His help because "he loves our nation and has built our synagogue." So Jesus went with them.

When Jesus was near the centurion's home, he sent friends out to say to Him, "Lord, don't trouble yourself, for I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. That is why I did not even consider myself worthy to come to you. But say the word, and my servant will be healed." This centurion must have felt his request was very bold.

**CLIMAX**

The centurion said to Jesus, "I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one 'Go,' and he goes; and that one, 'Come,' and he comes. I say to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it." A centurion was well aware of his authority to command his men. He was given his authority to command from the Roman government. He understood what unquestioning obedience was about. This Centurion saw Jesus speak with divine authority. He knew that whatever Jesus commanded it would be done.

**CONCLUSION**

"When Jesus heard this, He was amazed at him, and turning to the crowd following him, He said, 'I tell you, I have not found such great faith even in Israel.'" The man who had been sent out to talk to Jesus returned to the house and found the servant well. A Gentile set an example of faith for all of Israel.

**SHIELD OF FAITH  
HELMET OF SALVATION**

A Roman soldier carried a large wooden shield into battle. An enemy would often set his arrows on fire before shooting them. The shield would give the soldier protection from his enemies' arrows. Satan throws fiery arrows and darts at us through temptations, insults, etc. He tries to get through our shield by trying to get us to sin. How do you fight off Satan's attack? You put on the Shield of Faith. You do this by never doubting God and by trusting Him completely. You must believe that God is able to work problems out for you and that He loves you and is always with you.

The Roman soldier would also wear a helmet to protect his head. You wear a helmet when you ride a bike, roller blade, skateboard or play sports. The helmet protects your head so you won't get hurt when engaging in these activities. How do you protect your head from Satan? Put on the Helmet of Salvation. You do this by being aware of what you allow to enter your mind. You are careful what you listen to on the radio, watch on television and what you read. Ask yourself, would Jesus approve of this TV program, movie, music, conversation or book? Remember, your savior, Jesus Christ is more powerful than Satan. We know

this because the bible says so (I John 4:4). It will be impossible for Satan to harm you when you have put on all of God's Armor.

The centurion had a shield of faith. We know this because he had faith in Jesus. He believed that whatever Jesus commanded it would be so. He had on the Helmet of Salvation because he did not listen to what others said about Jesus.

**MEMORY VERSE**

Jesus said, "Have faith in God." (Mark 11:22)

**QUESTIONS**

For class discussion ask your students any of the following:

1. Describe a centurion.
2. How many centurions are told about in the New Testament.
3. Why did the centurion send the Jewish elders to ask for Jesus' help?
4. Was the centurion well liked in his community?
5. Why did the people like the centurion?
6. Explain why Jesus was amazed at the centurion's words.
7. How do you think the servant felt when he was suddenly healed?
8. What does it mean to have faith?
9. Explain what the Shield of Faith is.
10. Explain what the Helmet of Salvation is.
11. How can you apply this armor to your life?
12. Which is easier, believing something you've seen or something you haven't seen?

**DO YOU BELIEVE?**

This object lesson may be used either at the beginning of class or after you tell the story.

**PREPARATION**

You'll need napkins and a bag of unshelled peanuts.

**THE LESSON**

Ask your students: Do you believe I can give you something without touching it? How could I do it? (You could wear gloves; you could pick it up with a spoon or other tool).

Do you believe I can give you something no human hand has ever touched? Explain. (No,



lots of people probably touched it before you; maybe everyone who touched it wore gloves.) Distribute napkins, then take several unshelled peanuts from the bag and offer them to the children. They will protest that you're touching the peanut. Carefully split one peanut's shell in half, and drop the peanuts inside onto a child's napkin.

Now do you believe I can give you something no human hand has ever touched? Give children several shelled peanuts. Show them how to remove the shells.

After you saw the peanuts, you believed I could give you something no human hand ever touched. While you're eating your peanuts, we'll hear a story about a man who believed Jesus could heal his servant without even touching him.

If you have already told the story, ask the children the questions while they eat their peanuts.

Read Hebrews 11:1, If you have older children in your class, ask a volunteer to read the scripture.

Finally, tell your students that the centurion didn't need to see Jesus heal his servant to believe it. He knew Jesus was more powerful than his servant's sickness. Even though we can't see Jesus today, we still believe in Him.



### CRAFT: STICK SHIELD

#### MATERIALS

- 8 large craft sticks
- Markers
- Glue
- Print out of "Trial of Faith"

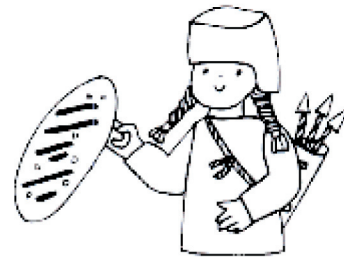
#### DIRECTIONS

1. Color 7 craft sticks using the markers.
2. Lay the uncolored 8th stick horizontally and cover one side with glue. (This is the guide stick that will hold the other 7 together)
3. Arrange 7 craft sticks in the shape of a shield on the glue. (Hold support stick on back for a little bit, to make sure glue at-

taches firmly).

4. Cut of "Trial of Faith" quote and glue onto the front center of the shield.

5. If desired you could add a magnet to the back and use as a fridge magnet for a constant reminder to put on God's armor.



### CRAFT: NYLON SHIELD

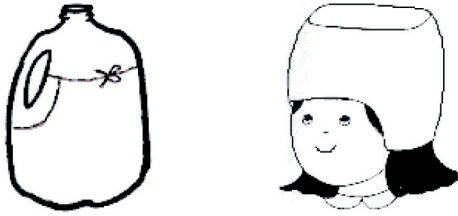
#### MATERIALS

- One wire coat hanger
- One knee-high length nylon hose
- Scissors, glue and newspaper
- Yarn, embroidery floss

#### DIRECTIONS

1. Give each child one nylon hose and a metal coat hanger. Show how to bend the triangular part of the hanger into a circle. Help children make the "frame" as round as possible.
2. Have each child slip the nylon hose over the circular frame so the open end of the hose ends up hanging from the "hooked" end of the hanger. Instruct students to pull the hose tightly over the frame and tie a knot close to the "hooked" part of the hanger. This will keep the hose taut.
3. Show students how to bend the "hook" up to create a handle for the back of the shield. Be sure they bend them as far up as possible.
4. Have students trim any excess hose from the bottom of their shields. If time allows, set out glue and strips of yarn or embroidery floss. Allow students to decorate the front of their shields.





### CRAFT: MILK CONTAINER HELMET

#### MATERIALS

- One gallon plastic milk container for each student
- Scissors
- Glue
- Decorating items such as buttons, sequins, feathers, colored paper, old Mylar balloons and stickers.

#### DIRECTIONS

1. Clean plastic milk container for each child.
2. Be sure the scissors are sharp enough to cut the plastic (Fiskars for Kids scissors work well).
3. Before class, cut a section from each milk container; cut into the spout and then down about three inches. Then cut across the broad 'fat' side of the carton—away from the handle—and back up to the other side of the spout.
4. Give each child a precut one-gallon milk container. Have them hold their milk container upside-down, by the handle. This is where their faces will go when wearing the helmet. Cut off the handle so that they can see. Some may need help doing this.
5. Now that the basic shape of the helmet has been made, have them think about what they want their special helmets to look like. Remind them that different countries made their helmets look unique.
6. Now they can use any of the materials (listed above) to design and decorate their helmets. When everyone is finished you can have a helmet fashion show so everyone can see.

#### TEACHER TIP

- If you have mostly younger children in your group, you may want to cut off the handles of the milk containers ahead of time.
- If you have a tape player, bring a cassette of parade marches, play it in the background for your fashion show.



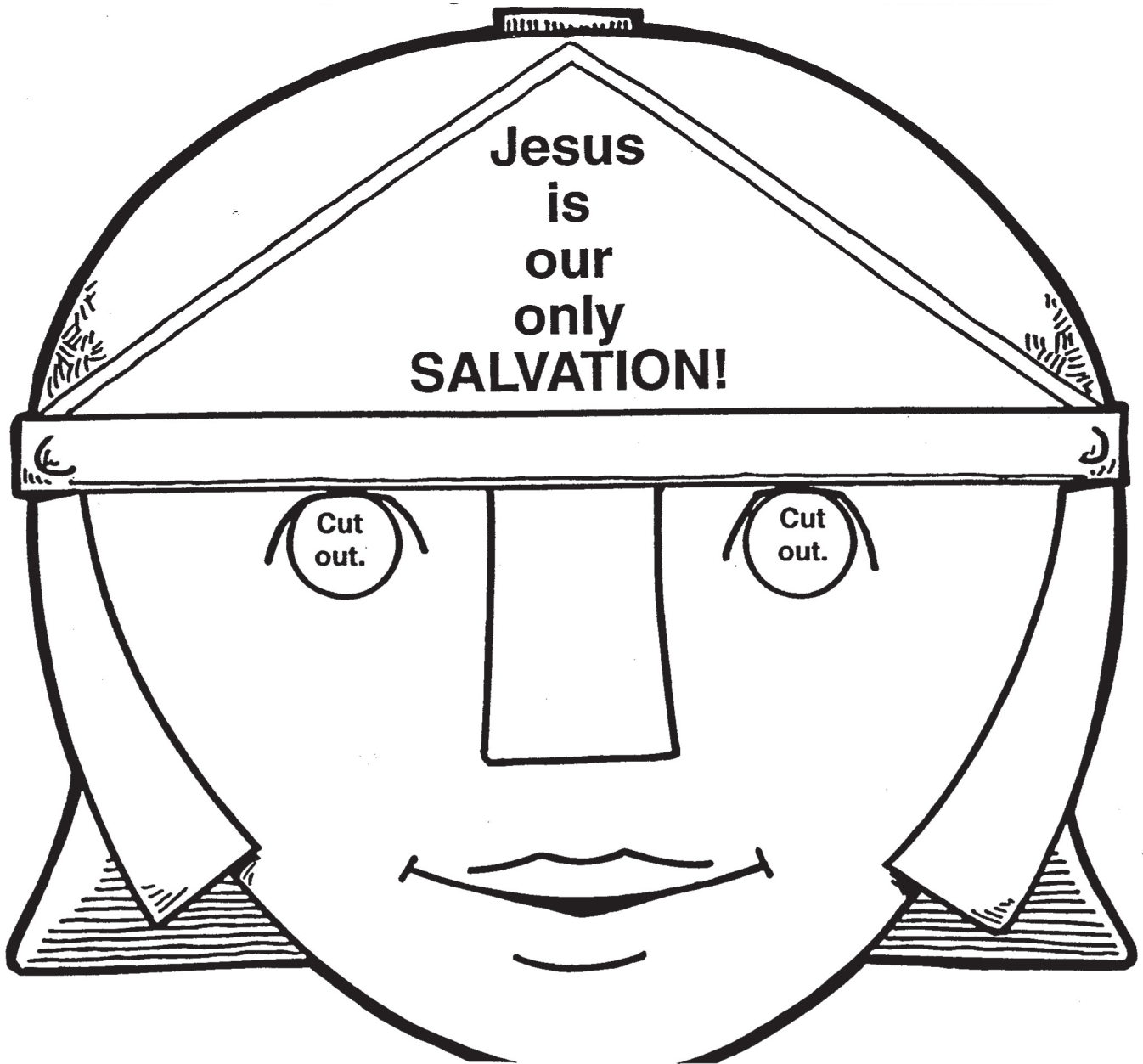
### CRAFT: CENTURION

#### MATERIALS

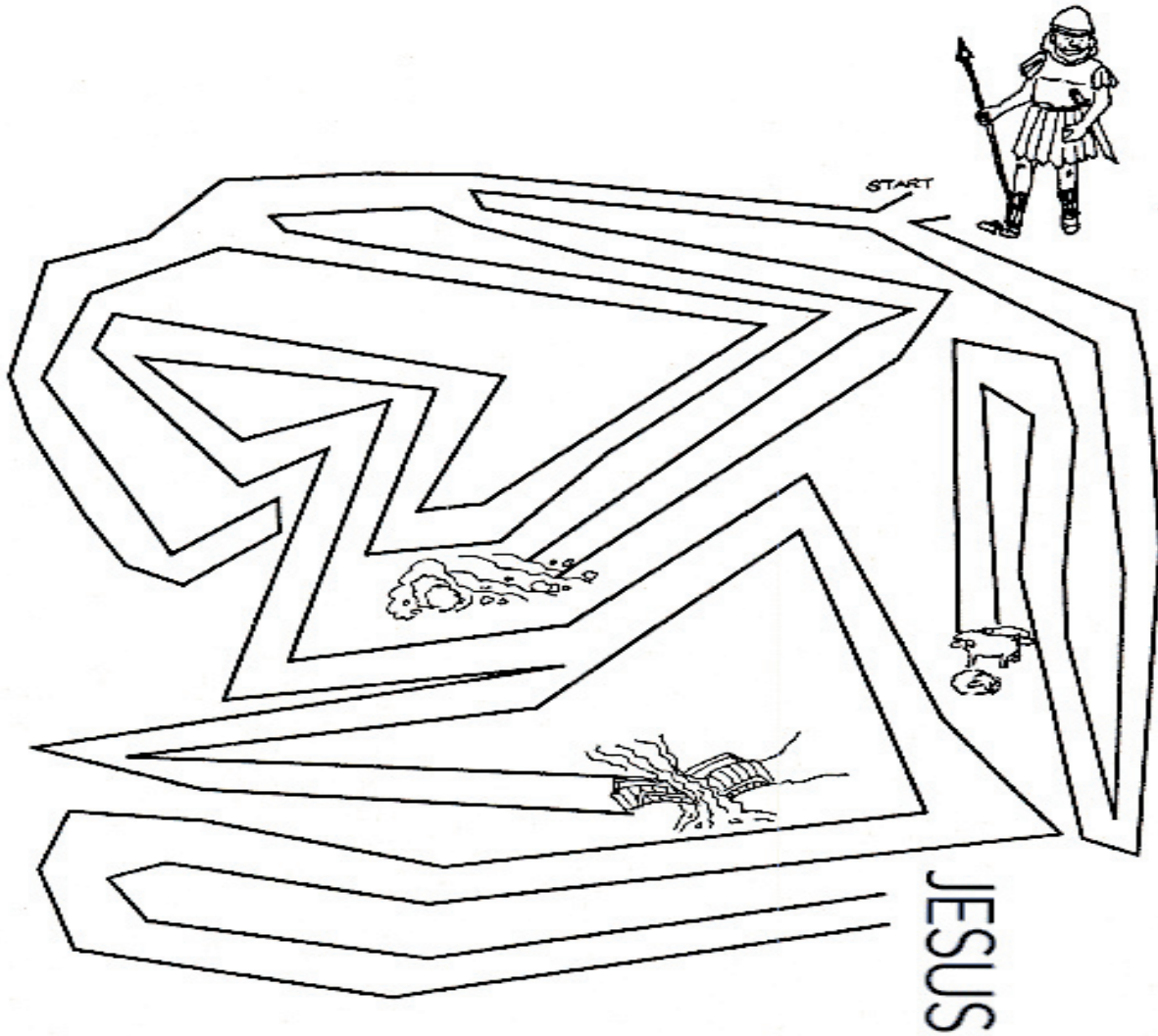
- Copy a mask for each student (on the next page)
- Crayons
- Scissors
- Two 12"-lengths of string for each student
- Hole puncher

#### DIRECTIONS

1. Color and cut out the mask. Be sure to cut out the eyeholes.
2. Tie two pieces of string in holes that have been punched on the sides of the mask.



A high-ranking Roman soldier once came to Jesus to ask Him to heal his servant (Matthew 8:5-10). Help the centurion find his way to Jesus.



THE CENTURION'S SERVANT

Code

F	A	B
E	D	C

G	H
J	I

K	
L	M

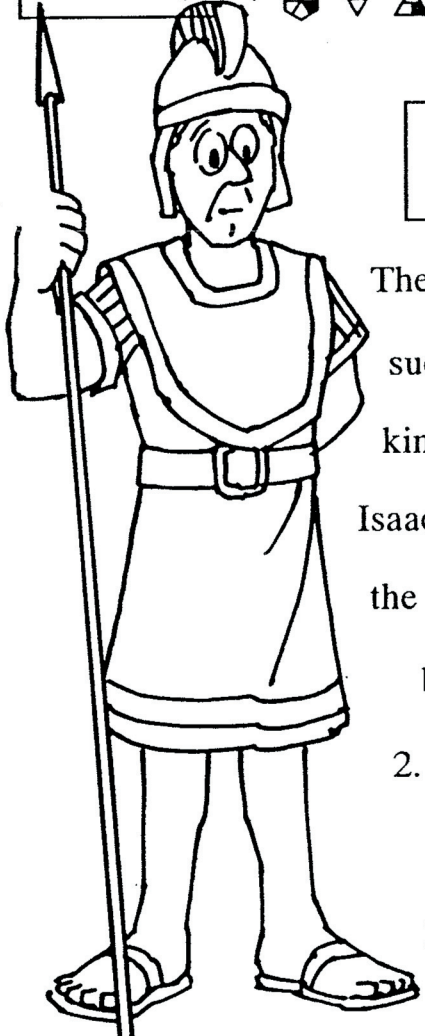
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Y	Z

**A** \_\_\_\_\_ went to Jesus for help. His \_\_\_\_\_ was \_\_\_\_\_ and in \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus said He would \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ him. The \_\_\_\_\_ said he was not \_\_\_\_\_ to have Jesus in his \_\_\_\_\_. He said he \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus could \_\_\_\_\_ his \_\_\_\_\_ without \_\_\_\_\_ to his \_\_\_\_\_.

Write the first letter of each picture in the box. Then unscramble the letters to find the answers.



The centurion had great 1. \_\_\_\_\_. Jesus had not found such faith in all of Israel. He said many Gentiles would be in the kingdom with Abraham,

Isaac and Jacob. Jesus told the centurion that it would be done. The 2. \_\_\_\_\_ was

3. \_\_\_\_\_ at that moment.

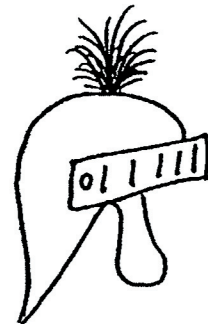
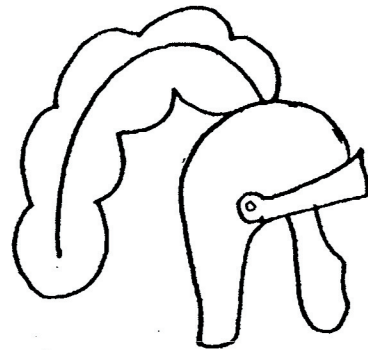
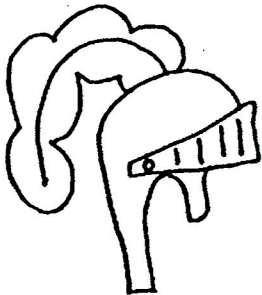
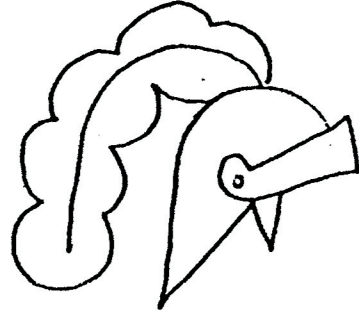
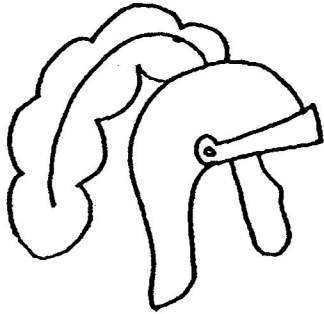
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### HELMET MATCH

Find the 2 helmets that match and put a circle around them. Then color the helmets.



## HELMET MATCH

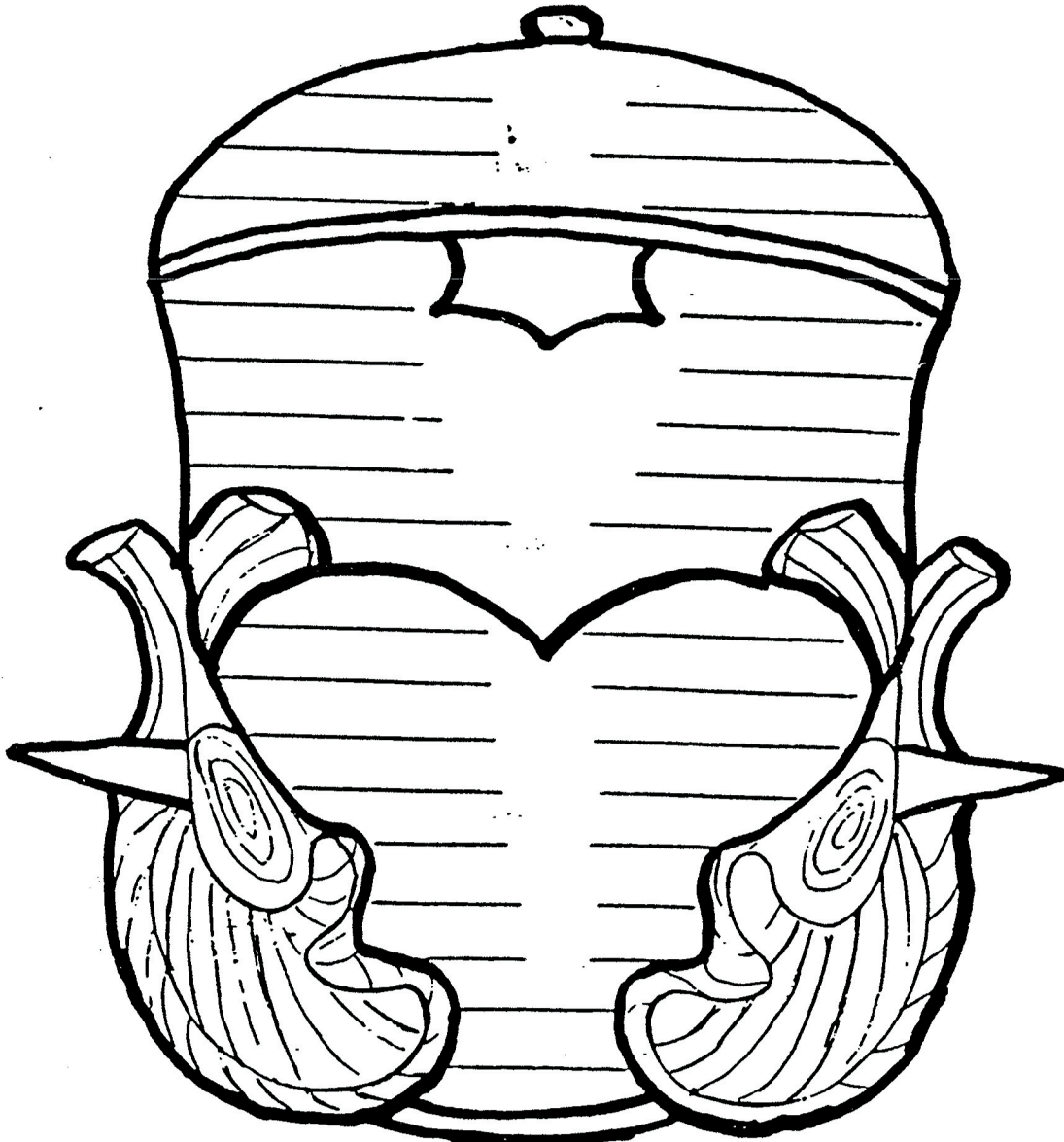
The Roman soldier wore a helmet to protect his head. We wear helmets when we ride a bike, roller blade, skateboard or play some sport games. This helps to protect our head so we won't get hurt when engaging in these activities.

How do we protect our head from Satan? We put on the helmet of salvation.

How do we put on the helmet of salvation?

Be aware of what you allow to enter your mind.  
Be careful what you listen to, watch on TV and what you read.  
Ask yourself this question: Would Jesus Christ approve of this  
TV program, movie, music, conversation, game or book?

Below is a helmet with lines for you to write one. How many words can you make from the letters in "Salvation"?



# Sword of the Spirit

Ephesians 6:10-20



## Lesson 5 The Apostles Persecuted Acts 5:12-42

The Sadducees (SAD-you-seez) were a group of Jewish priests who, during New Testament times, were loyal to the Roman government. The high priest was usually a Sadducee, he would be appointed by the Romans and he would serve as president of the Jerusalem Council. When the New Testament speaks of the "chief priests," it is referring to the Sadducees. The Sadducees were small in number, but great in influence. They were also among those who sat on the Jerusalem council. Another name for this council was Sanhedrin (san-HEE-drun). The Sanhedrin in New Testament times was the highest council of men who governed the Jewish people. There were approximately seventy men who served on the Council. They were subject to Roman rulers, but they had final say in religious matters, collecting taxes and in some criminal cases. They had the authority to pass a death sentence on a prisoner, but they needed the permission of the Roman ruler to carry it out. This is why Jesus

was brought before the Sanhedrin and Pilate. Pilate was the ruler of Judea during the time of Jesus' death. He did not get along with the Jews because he did not understand them or their religion. Josephus, a Jewish historian wrote that the Jews disliked Pilate because he used temple money to build an aqueduct. Pilate knew Jesus was innocent, but he did not want to get in further trouble with the Jews and so allowed them to execute Jesus. After Jerusalem was destroyed in 70 A.D., the power of the Sanhedrin came to an end.

### INTRODUCTION

After the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, thousands of people in Jerusalem were becoming Christians. The apostles were teaching and preaching Christ and many were seeing a need for forgiveness. When Peter and John healed a lame man they were brought before the Sanhedrin. The men were warned to stop the preaching and they were threatened. Afterward they were let free. Many continued to come from surrounding areas to hear the truth and bring the sick for



healing. The high priest did not like what was taking place and so he decided to take action. He had the apostles thrown in prison. An angel of the Lord came and released them. They were arrested again and taken before the Sanhedrin. The members on the council wanted to have them killed. However, there was one member who did not, a man named Gamaliel. Gamaliel belonged to a distinguished line of Jewish leaders. Why Gamaliel came to the defense of the apostles is not known. Maybe he read enough of history to know that God sometimes moves in mysterious ways. Perhaps he saw and heard enough of Christ to realize He is the Son of God. Whatever the reason, the Christians had an ally. God does indeed provide help sometimes in the most unexpected places.

### **PROGRESSION OF EVENTS**

Persecute means to harm, destroy, injure or torture someone. Individuals are usually persecuted because of their beliefs.

Peter and John taught that Jesus is God. As a result, many came to believe in Christ. The people would bring their sick to be healed by the apostles. To stop Peter and John from teaching about Jesus and the resurrection, the Sadducees put them in prison overnight and warned them not to continue speaking about Jesus (Acts 4:131).

The apostles did not heed the warning, and continued to preach. More and more people turned their lives around and followed the teachings of Christ. Once again Peter and John were put in prison.

During the night, an angel of the Lord opened the prison door and led the apostles out.

The angel said, "Go, stand in the temple courts and tell the people the full message of this new life." The apostles knew very well that if they went to the temple to teach about the resurrection they would be persecuted.

Early the next morning Peter and John began teaching in the temple. When the high priest arrived they called the Sanhedrin together and sent officers to the jail for the apostles. When the officers arrived, the prison doors

were locked and guarded, but the prison was empty!

When the officers reported back to the Sanhedrin, someone said, "Look, the men you put in jail are standing in the temple courts teaching the people."

The captain along with his officers arrested the apostles, but they did not use force because they were afraid the crowd would stone them.

The apostles were brought before the Sanhedrin to be questioned by the high priest. "We gave you strict orders not to teach in His name. Yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and are determined to make us guilty of this man's blood." You see, the Sanhedrin told Pilate a lie about Jesus—that He taught people that He was the king and they should not pay taxes to Rome. Consequently, Jesus was crucified. These rulers are not the only guilty ones. The Bible says, "All have sinned" (Romans 3:23). When you do things that don't please God you sin. Jesus is the Son of God and He never sinned. Yet, Jesus paid the ultimate price for the sins of all mankind. When Jesus died, all of man's sins were put on Him. After He took the punishment, He was buried and resurrected (I Corinthians 15:3,4). The rulers did not believe that Jesus is the Son of God nor did they believe in His death and resurrection. Therefore, they did not want to have it taught. They especially did not like hearing that they had a role in the death of Jesus Christ.

### **CLIMAX**

Peter and the other apostles replied: "We must obey God rather than men." When the rulers heard this, they were angry. They were so furious that they wanted to put them to death. A Pharisee named Gamaliel advised the council to let the men go. He said, "Leave these men alone! Let them go! For if their purpose or activity is of human origin, it will fail. But if it is from God, you will not be able to stop these men; you will only find yourselves fighting against God." His speech persuaded them. The apostles were beaten and warned not to speak in the name of Jesus, and then they were let free.

**CONCLUSION**

The apostles left the Sanhedrin rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for Jesus. Every day the apostles continued to teach and proclaim the good news that Jesus is the Son of God and that He died and rose again.

**SWORD OF THE SPIRIT**

A Roman soldier had a sword that was made of steel and was very sharp. This type of sword would become dull after awhile and would be in need of sharpening. You have a spiritual sword that helps you with your battles against Satan. When you study your Bible and understand what God is telling you to do, you are keeping your spiritual sword sharp. If you don't do these things, your spiritual sword becomes dull. God's Spirit working in you is your spiritual sword that helps you to overcome your enemies by not breaking God's laws and commandments. How can you keep the Sword of the Spirit sharp? Read your Bible daily, memorize scriptures and keep God's laws and commandments.

**MEMORY VERSE**

"We must obey God rather than men." (Acts 5:29)

**QUESTIONS**

For class discussion ask your students any of the following:

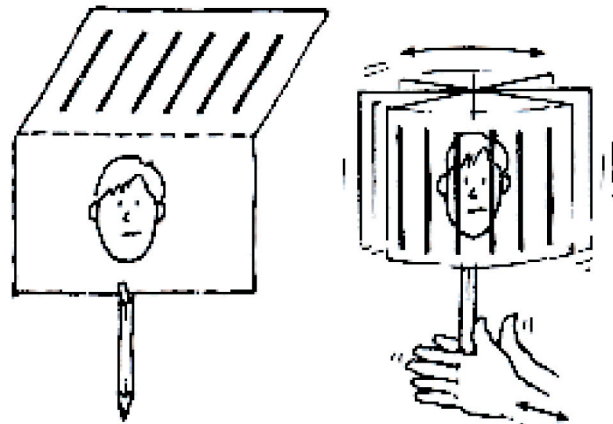
1. What was the Sanhedrin?
2. Who were the Sadducees?
3. What does persecution mean?
4. What were Peter and John doing that the Sanhedrin didn't like?
5. How did the apostles get out of prison?
6. Who was Gamaliel and what was his reason for letting the apostles be free?
7. How do you keep your sword of the spirit sharp?

**CRAFT: PETER AND JOHN BEHIND BARS****MATERIALS**

- A pencil and a half sheet of typing paper for each student
- Tape and markers

**DIRECTIONS**

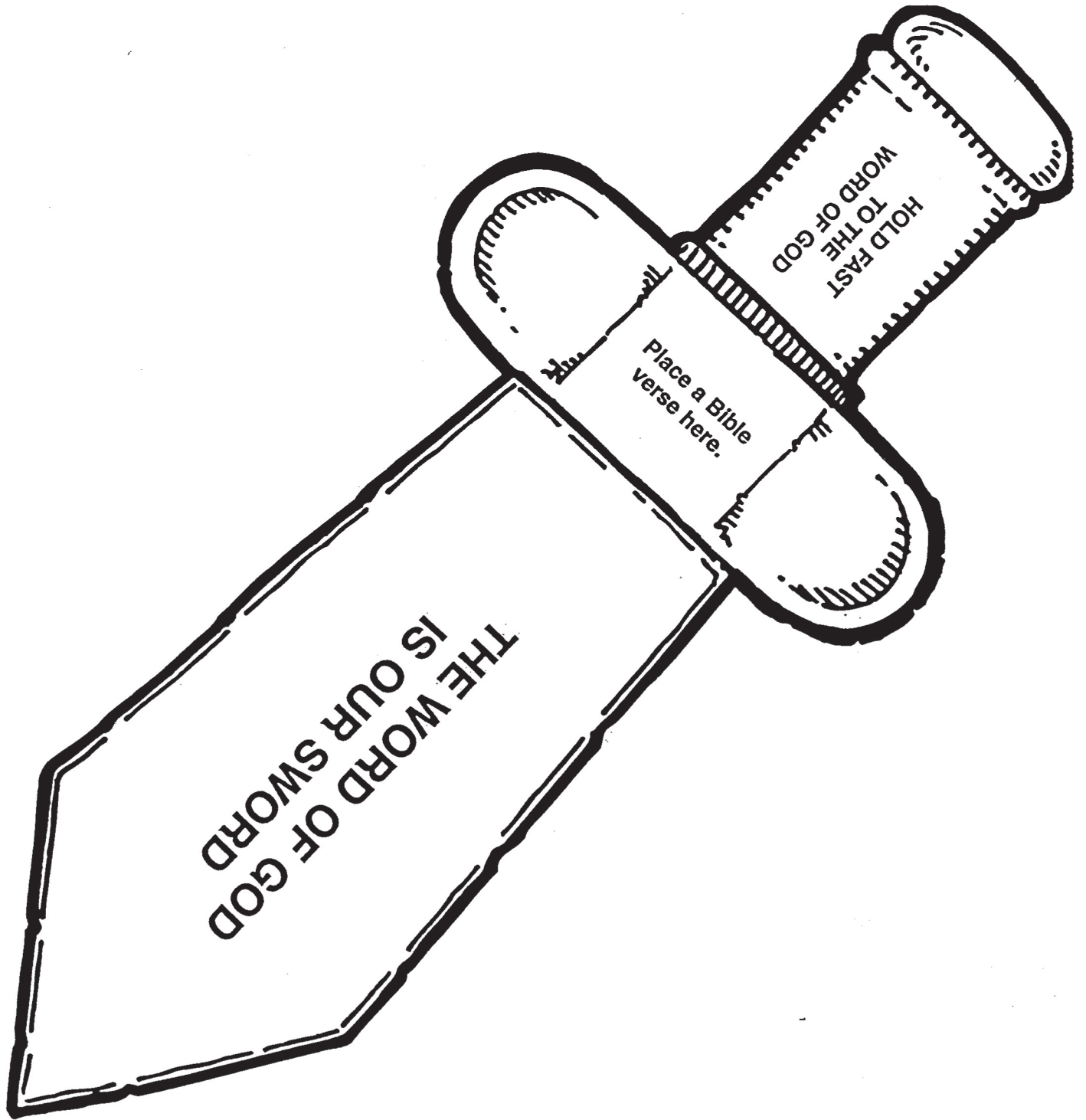
1. Hand each student a piece of typing paper and markers.
2. Have students fold their typing paper in half and draw prison bars on one side and a face on the other side.
3. Distribute pencils and have students tape their folded papers over the top of the pencil.
4. They may also want to tape the outside edges together.
5. Show students how to roll the pencil between their palms. The face should appear to be behind bars.

**CRAFT: SWORD OF THE SPIRIT****MATERIALS**

- Make a copy of the sword and Bible verses on the following page for each student.
- Crayons
- Scissors
- Stapler
- Poster board
- Glue, clear plastic adhesive

**DIRECTIONS**

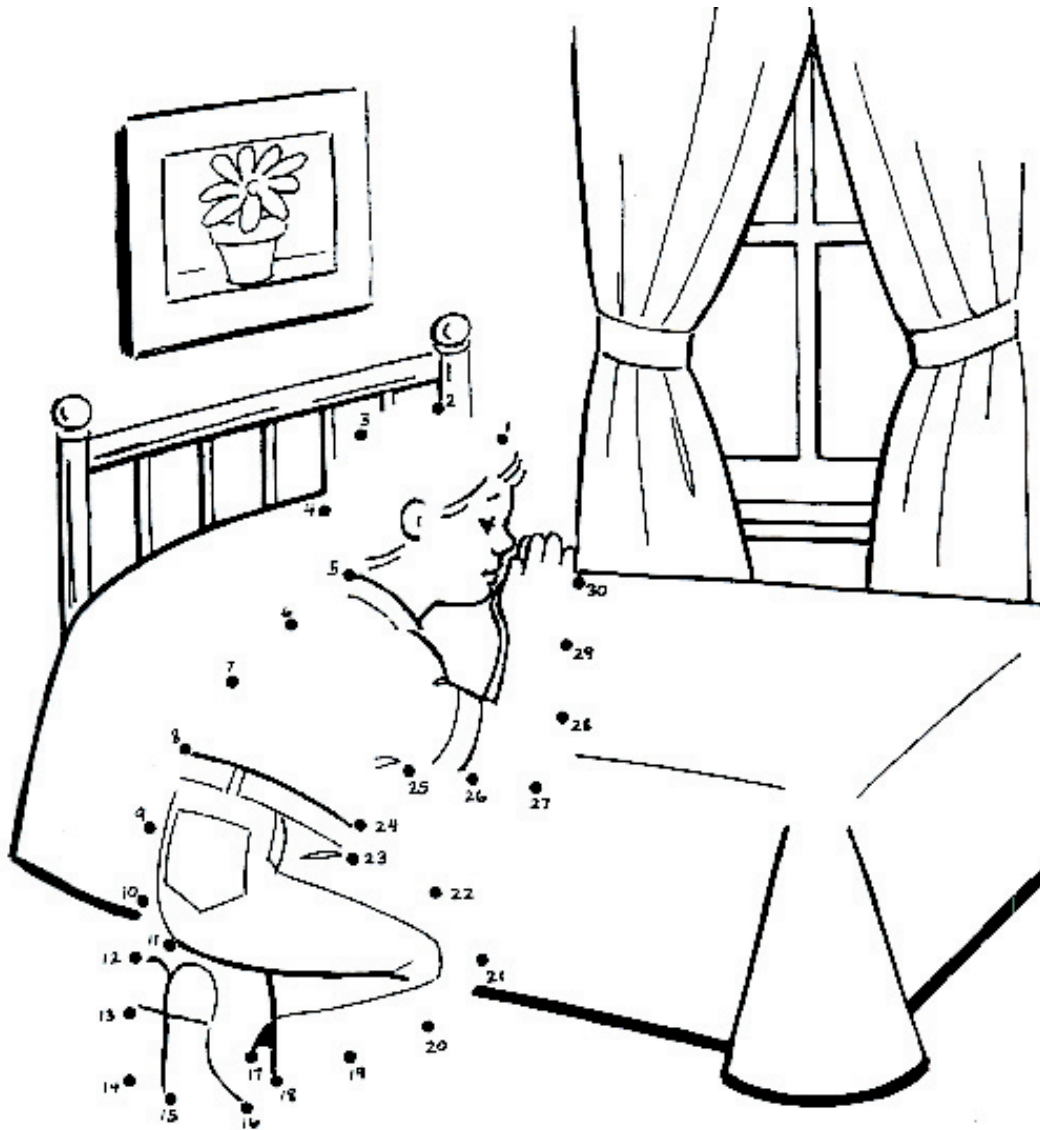
1. Give each student a sword to color.
2. Have them glue their sword to the poster board.
3. Cover the sword with clear plastic adhesive, front and back.
4. Cut out the Bible verses on the following page and staple a verse to the sword where shown.
5. Use the sword to memorize God's Word.



**MEMORY VERSES**

The Lord is good to all. Psalm 145:9a	Give thanks... 1 Thessalonians 5:18a	Help me, O Lord my God. Psalm 109:26a	...The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. Hebrews 13:6a
...Believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. John 20:31a	As for God, his way is perfect. Psalm 18:30a	...Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ. Acts 2:38a	It is more blessed to give than receive. Acts 20:35b
Watch and pray Mark 14:38a  ...Love one another. John 13:34b	Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. Romans 12:21	Search me, O God, and know my heart. Psalm 139:23a	The gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:23b
The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. Psalm 111:10a	For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous. 1 Peter 3:12a	Trust in the Lord and do good. Psalm 37:3a	The Lord is righteous in all his ways. Psalm 145:17a

Sometimes people try to hurt other people because they believe in God. Has anyone ever done something mean to you because you believe in Jesus? Connect the dots to show what you should do when this happens.



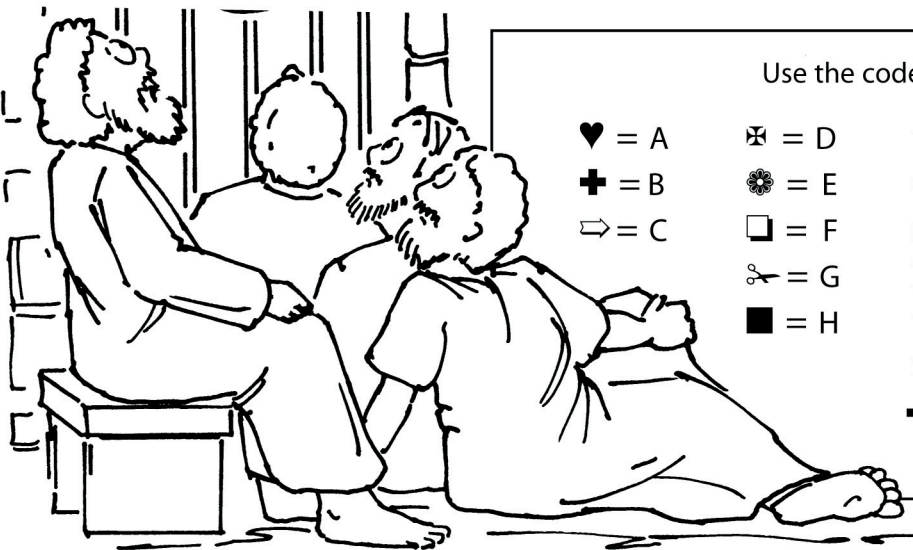
"I will call on You, O God, for You will answer me"  
Psalm 17:6

Color the picture of the teacher reading from the Bible and the children listening to God's Word.



### THE APOSTLES IN PRISON

**T**he apostles were \_\_\_\_\_ and  
 \_\_\_\_\_ in Jerusalem. The number of \_\_\_\_\_  
 was \_\_\_\_\_. The religious leaders were \_\_\_\_\_.  
 They had the apostles \_\_\_\_\_ and put in \_\_\_\_\_. During  
 the night, an \_\_\_\_\_ came and told them to go to the  
 temple \_\_\_\_\_ and tell the  
 \_\_\_\_\_ the message of "\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_." The next morning, when the religious leaders sent  
 for them, they were \_\_\_\_\_! They were found teaching  
 in the temple courts. The high priest commanded them not to  
 \_\_\_\_\_ any more in Jesus' name. Peter said,  
 "We must \_\_\_\_\_ God rather than \_\_\_\_\_."



Use the code to finish this story.

♥ = A	⊠ = D	☆ = I	◐ = P	⬠ = W
⊕ = B	⊗ = E	✈ = J	📎 = Q	● = X
⇒ = C	◻ = F	✓ = K	▮ = R	○ = Y
	✂ = G	✕ = L	◆ = S	* = Z
	■ = H	☆ = M	⊗ = T	
		✕ = N	▲ = U	
		⊕ = O	* = V	

## THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT

A Roman soldier had a sword that was made of steel and was very sharp. That type of sword becomes dull after awhile and needs to be sharpened often. We have a spiritual sword that helps us with our battles with Satan. When we study our Bible and understand what God is telling us to do, we are keeping our spiritual sword sharp. If we don't do these things, our spiritual sword becomes dull. God's Spirit working in us is our spiritual sword, helping us to overcome our enemies by not breaking God's laws and commandments.

Keep the sword of the Spirit sharp! How?

Read your Bible daily.

Memorize scriptures.

Keep God's laws and commandments.

Look up 2 Timothy 3:16 in your Bible and write it in the space below:

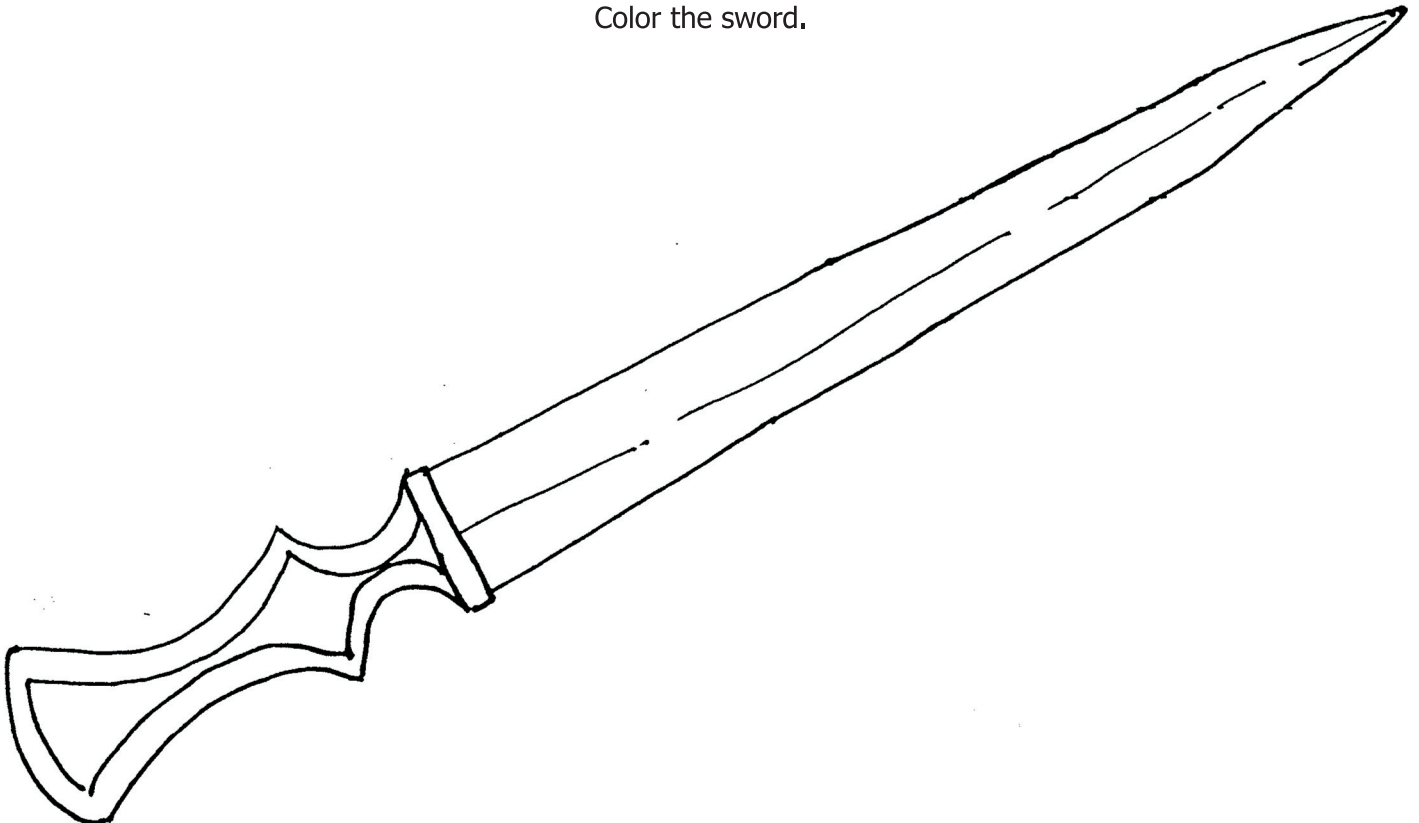
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Color the sword.





# Prayer and Supplication

Ephesians 6:10-20



## Lesson 6

### Hannah's Special Prayer

I Samuel 1:1-2:11

**Prayer is communicating or talking with God. Bowing our heads, kneeling or talking to God while we lie in bed is just as real as talking on the phone or sending an email to a friend. We don't need a phone or an internet connection to talk to God.**

**Why should we pray? Our relationship with God will grow stronger. Just as you cannot have a best friend without communicating with them you can't have a close relationship with God if you don't spend time in prayer. Prayer is seeking God and His direction for our lives. Praying helps to keep us out of trouble and Jesus told us to pray, "Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation" (Matthew 26:41).**

#### INTRODUCTION

Does God answer prayer? Will God always give us what we want? I John 5:14,15 "And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us." Today we will be reading about a woman named Hannah who prayed

to God and God answered her prayer.

#### PROGRESSION OF EVENTS

Hannah had been married for sometime to a man named Elkanah. Unfortunately, Hannah did not have any children. In ancient Israel, a woman who was married with no children was thought to be under a curse from God. To be without children was shameful. (Psalm 127:3; Luke 1:25).

Hannah was very sad because other women were not very kind to her. When you are sad, do you go to God and talk to Him about why you are sad? God wants to hear from us about the things that make us unhappy.

Elkanah, Hannah's husband was kind to her. He truly loved Hannah and treated her in a special way even though she had no children.

Each spring, Elkanah and Hannah traveled to the tabernacle in Shiloh to worship and offer sacrifices to God. They were there keeping the Passover and Days of Unleavened Bread. In Hannah's time Jesus had not yet come, so people brought sacrifices to God to have their

sins forgiven.

Hannah was so sad that she did not have a child that she did not eat. She lost her appetite. Her childless state had an affect on her whole outlook on life. She was so miserable, she did not even see all the blessings around her—such as her loving husband. When we are sad and depressed, we need to cry out to God.

Hannah did just that, she cried out to God asking the Lord to give her a son. Hannah did exactly what God wants us to do. She prayed to God. God hears your prayers and He will answer according to his will. He says, "Call to Me, and I will answer you" (Jeremiah 33:3). If you are upset because a friend has treated you badly, go to God with it. If someone you know is sick, pray for that person. (Discuss with the class things they can pray for. God wants to hear about your problems. Hannah went to the temple and she shared with God her problem. She prayed fervently, specifically and believingly.

When Hannah prayed silently in the temple, Eli, the priest, saw her lips moving but did not hear her voice. Eli accused her of being drunk. Hannah explained to Eli that she wasn't drunk, but sad in her heart. Knowing that God would surely do what was best for Hannah, Eli told her to go in peace because he knew God would answer her prayer in His perfect way.. Hannah brought her request to God in faith. God will hear your prayers too and He will give you peace. As you trust in God, He will give you peace (Philippians 4:6,7).

### **CLIMAX**

Hannah left the temple rejoicing, knowing that God would answer her prayer and the family returned home after worshiping the Lord. Time passed and Hannah did become pregnant.

### **CONCLUSION**

Hannah had a baby boy and she named him Samuel, which means "Heard by God". God gave Hannah the son she asked Him for. God promises to hear your prayers and answer according to His will. God will always give you

what you pray for if your request is what He knows is best for you. You don't just have to pray when you are sad. God also wants to hear happy prayers. Praising and giving thanks to God for all the good and kind things He does for you is also very important.

Finish your time together by reading James 5:13-16 (The Prayer of Faith)

### **MEMORY VERSE**

"You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart" Jeremiah 29:13

A Roman soldier would always keep in constant contact with his commander. This is especially true when a soldier is in battle. You need to keep in constant contact with your Commanders--God the Father and Jesus Christ. They are your spiritual leaders and will help you at all times. They will help you keep your spiritual armor in place. How do you keep in constant contact with your Commanders? Pray daily, stay close to God in prayer and read the Bible so you will know what God wants you to do.

### **QUESTIONS**

1. Why was Hannah sad?
2. What did Hannah name her baby?
3. What does Samuel mean?
4. What is prayer?
5. Can you pray when you are in trouble?
6. Can you pray when you are happy?
7. What is another name for happy prayers?
8. What are some of the examples of why to pray mentioned in James 5:13-16?
9. What else can we pray for?
10. Is the prayer of a righteous man powerful? Is it effective?
12. How do you keep in contact with your commanders?
13. Who are your commanders?



### CRAFT: KNOCK & ASK DOOR HANGER

#### MATERIALS

- Foam Door Hangers Any Color
- Foam Stickers Or Regular Stickers
  - Copy Paper
- Scissors
- Double Stick Tape

#### DIRECTIONS

1. Print on copy paper "...Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you."  
Luke 11:9.
2. Cut verse out and stick onto a door hanger with tape or glue.
3. Decorate door hanger with stickers.



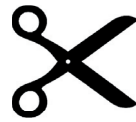
### CRAFT: PRAYING HANDS

#### MATERIALS

- Construction Paper any color
- White copy paper
- Markers
- Stickers
- Stapler

#### DIRECTIONS

1. Fold a piece of construction paper in half to make the cover for the book.
2. Staple pages to the inside of the cover.  
Write the child's name and "Prayer Book" on the cover.
3. Decorate the cover with stickers.
4. Open the book and write on page 1, "Thank you God for.....:"
5. On another page you could write "I want to pray for..."



### CRAFT: PRAYING HANDS SNACK

#### MATERIALS

- Food Handling Disposable Gloves
- Popcorn
- Yarn any color
- Scissors

#### DIRECTIONS

1. Fill gloves up with popcorn.
2. Eat right out of gloves.
3. If there are leftovers tie a ribbon around the end to send home.

## A SPECIAL MOTHER - A SPECIAL SON



### WORDS TO KNOW

Vow - a solemn promise

Nazirite - a person separated to serve God. The person was not supposed to cut his hair or eat anything associated with the fruit of the vine.

Cross out all of the words below that begin with:

J - O - Q - U - Y

Read the remaining words.

Hannah jump was sad old that queen she use didn't have any children. Yellow She made over a vow to jade God that quite if jolly He gave her a son, unfold she would give unit him jam back to God to serve Him under his unkind whole uncle life. He oar would be a Nazirite. obey Eli, quiet the high use priest, jack gave her a blessing. She off felt happy. Up God gave her yes a oil son. yard His name was quick Samuel. Jig At of the right time, union she jar took him to one Shiloh year to Eli.

There are 2 of each kind of shape. Draw lines to match them.

Peninnah

Shiloh

Samuel

Eli

Hannah

Elkanah

### THE HOLY BIBLE

The Bible is the true Word of God. His Word is holy and righteous.

Solve the puzzle below to find out how we know the Bible is true.

1   12   12   19   3   18   9   16   20   21   18   5

9   19   7   9   22   5   14   2   25

9   14   19   16   9   18   1   20   9   15   14

15   6   7   15   4 . -2 Timothy 3:16

<b>CODE</b>												
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

The Bible tells us about 10 5 19 21 19

God wants us to 18 5 1 4 20 8 5

2 9 2 12 5 every day.

Paul compared each piece of armor a Roman soldier would wear to things Christians should have in their lives. Unscramble the mixed-up words that tell things Christians should have in their lives and write the correct words on the lines. Then write the number of the piece of armor on the line in front of the thing to which Paul compared it. The first one is done for you.

4\_ AFIHT    FAITH

\_\_\_ LOSGPE FO ECEAP \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ PSRIIT WHICH SI HET DROW FO DOG \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ RTUTH \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ SSSHTGIRUOEEN \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ VLASANOIT \_\_\_\_\_

