

Armor of God (Lesson Three):

Shoes of the Gospel of Peace/Shield of Faith

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Theme: The third piece of armor are the Shoes of the Gospel of Peace. When we put on these shoes and remember the gospel every day, we are able to follow Jesus instead of Satan and tell everyone we meet about God’s love.

Memory Verse: Ephesians 6:11 (NIV) “Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes.”

***Game:** Shoe Soup

Have all the kids take off their shoes and place them in a pile on one side of the room, then have them all stand on the opposite side. When you say go, they all have to run to the shoes, grab a pair that does not belong to them, find the person they belong to and put their shoes on them. You must take turns putting on shoes and having someone put your shoes on you. This is not a race with just one winner. All the students need to work together and make sure everyone has their shoes on right and makes it back safely. Just like in the Christian race, they are not supposed to run on their own, only looking out for themselves.

Lesson: Raise your hand if you are wearing shoes today. Why? Of course, you wore shoes today so you would be able to run around and not hurt your feet. Why do you think shoes are included in the Armor of God? We are told to prepare our feet with the preparation that comes with the Gospel of Peace. What is the Gospel of Peace? Allow a few students to answer. The Gospel of Peace is that Jesus came and died on the cross for our sins and then rose from the dead and ascended into Heaven. This means that if we believe in Jesus Christ and ask Him to forgive us of our sins, then we can live a peaceful life without worry. We don’t have to worry because we know we are going to Heaven.

Why do you think we have to prepare our feet with this? Let a few students answer briefly. Our job as warriors for God is to let as many people as we can know about the Gospel. One way we can do this is to tell them about the ABC's of salvation. What are the ABC's of salvation? "A" means you accept that you're a sinner and need somebody to help you out of your sins. "B" means you believe that Jesus Christ has already died for all of your sins and wants you to follow Him for the rest of your life and someday go to Heaven. "C" means you confess your sins to Jesus and ask Him to come into your heart and forgive you of your sins. If you haven't already done this in your own life, then how can you show other people how to do this? If we say that we love Jesus, we need to act like we love Jesus. We need to walk the walk. Picture this: if you were playing basketball with someone and they said they could slam dunk, you would want to see it, right? What if they kept bragging that they could slam dunk but then never did? Would you still believe that they can slam dunk? Probably not. If they showed you a slam dunk, then you would believe them.

Being a Christian is kind of the same way. When we say we love Jesus, but then we don't act like it, we are not walking the walk. The shoes of the Gospel of Peace help us to remember to follow Jesus. When we are following Jesus and doing what he wants us to do, we cannot follow Satan, and we cannot do what Satan wants us to do. It is important to put on the shoes of the Gospel of Peace every day, so we can tell others about Jesus, and keep ourselves from following Satan. How do we put on the shoes of the Gospel of Peace? Ephesians 6:15 says that we "put on the readiness that comes with the gospel of peace." This means we have to be ready to tell others about Jesus.

The fourth piece of armor is the shield of faith. The shield of faith moves to cover our doubts and struggles. The more faith we have in our Lord, the less likely we are to be hurt when Satan attacks. It is also important to remember that our God is always faithful to us. When we take up the shield of faith, we don't do it through our own strength, but through God's strength.

Knights wear a lot of armor, don't they? It doesn't seem like there is any weakness in all that metal, but they still need to carry a shield. No matter how well protected a warrior may seem, there is always a weakness somewhere. All the enemy has to do is find the weakness and they will be able to take the knight down. That's why warriors have shields. What makes the shield different from the other pieces of armor? Have a few students answer. Unlike the other pieces of armor, the shield isn't strapped on to a certain part of your body. The shield can move to cover weaknesses in a warrior's armor and keep arrows from piercing through. Great warriors know how to use their shield to protect them from danger. We need to do the same thing with the Shield of Faith.

Why do you think God uses a shield to represent faith? Let children answer. Faith

covers areas of our lives where we struggle with sins or where we just don't know the answer to a question. Hebrews 11 tells us of people in the Old Testament who had faith to get through difficult situations, like when Abraham and Sarah trusted that God would provide them with a child. Then when God fulfilled this promise, He asked Abraham to sacrifice his son Isaac. Now think about how you would feel if you got something you really really wanted from God, and then you were told to give it back, you couldn't have it anymore? That's exactly what God asked Abraham to do. But Abraham knew that God wouldn't break His promise. He had faith that God would pull through. That's because GOD IS ALWAYS FAITHFUL. The shield of faith is not only our faithfulness to God, but it is also God's faithfulness to us. When we are faithful, it means we completely trust that God will protect us in our war against Satan. The problem is, when we doubt these things, we are not being faithful. That's why God is faithful to us. He will never leave us. Even when we sin and doubt God, he is still there to protect us. When we believe that, we are picking up the shield of faith.

***Game:** Faith Ball

Give every child a paper plate shield. (A paper plate with a handle made of masking tape on the back.) Have them all line up along the wall. Gently toss crumpled balls of paper at the children. (Not towards their heads, of course.) The kids have to use their shields to block the "arrows" flying toward them. Once they are hit, they are out. They can help throw things, if you want. Play until everyone is out.

***Craft:** Make shoes of the gospel of peace.

1. Have children trace both their feet.
2. Cut them out and decorate.
3. Cut out strips of paper to go over the top of the shoe. The strip should be long enough to tuck under the cut out of the foot. Tape the strip to the bottom, after the kids write PEACE across it.
4. Remember, these shoes are for decoration, and not really for real use.

***Activity Sheet:** Sandals of the Gospel Secret Code (See Attached)

***Activity Sheet:** Shield of Faith Coloring Sheet (See Attached)

***YouTube links:**

"Armor of God" by Covenant Kids Worship <https://youtu.be/PZ5vIRy0cxw>

"Armor of God" by PursueGODKids: <https://youtu.be/81iFo2G2K7U>



The Sandals of the Gospel Secret Code

Each number stands for a letter of the alphabet. Write the correct letter in the blank to find the coded words and phrase.

Code key

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

6 5 5 20

7 15 4

1 18 13 15 18

16 5 1 3 5

18 5 1 4 9 14 5 19 19

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19 1 14 4 1 12 19

7 15 19 16 5 12

The Armor of God
The Shield of Faith



Ephesians 6:13-17



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P E A C E
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R E A D I N E S S
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