



10

The Armor of God

Key Theme

- God works in believers to accomplish His purpose.

Key Passages

- John 14:15; Matthew 22:37–39; Ephesians 6:13–17

Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Identify what Jesus said were the greatest commandments.
- Explain what God gives believers so they can live the Christian life.



Lesson Overview



Come On In

Students will practice the memory verse by completing the Memory Verse Review Sheet and reciting the verse to a friend.



Activity 1: The Armor of God Class Notes

Students will fill out The Armor of God Class Notes as you study the lesson.



Studying God's Word

As believers, we are told to love God and love our neighbor. If we love God, we will obey Him. But God knows that's hard for us to do, so He gives us the armor of God to put on and use every day.



Activity 2: The Armor of God Matching Game

Students will try to find matching cards to earn points for their team.

Lesson Preparation

WHAT YOU WILL DO

WHAT YOU WILL NEED



COME ON IN

- Print one Memory Verse Review Sheet from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student.

- Memory Verse Poster
- Memory Verse Review Sheets
- Pencils or crayons



THE ARMOR OF GOD CLASS NOTES

- Print one The Armor of God Class Notes from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student. Keep the answer key for your use.

- The Armor of God Class Notes for each student
- The Armor of God Class Notes Answer Key
- Pencils



STUDYING GOD'S WORD

- Study the Prepare to Share section.
- Go Before the Throne.
- Print and cut out the seven Lesson Illustrations from the Resource DVD-ROM.

- Seven Lesson Illustrations
- Tape or poster putty
- Romans 1:16 Memory Verse Poster from Quarter 3
- Student Take Home Sheets



THE ARMOR OF GOD MATCHING GAME

- Print and cut out two each of the seven The Armor of God Matching Cards from the Resource DVD-ROM. Fourteen cards per set.
- If you have a large class, print enough sets of the matching cards so teams of 3–4 can play.
- Print additional sets for each student to take home. Put these in envelopes or small plastic bags.

- The Armor of God Matching Cards (14 cards per set)
- Enough sets to play during class and for students to take one set home with them
- Envelopes or plastic bags to put students' cards into



MEMORY VERSE REVIEW GAME (OPTIONAL)

- This is an optional activity to use in some or all of the lessons to review the memory verse if time allows.
- Print onto cardstock and cut out one or two sets (depending on class size) of the Memory Verse Flashcards from the Resource DVD-ROM.
- Keep the flashcards for use in Lessons 7–12.

- Memory Verse Poster
- One set of Memory Verse Flashcards
- Masking tape
- Optional: Timer



Memory Verse

1 Thessalonians 5:16–18 Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

► **Pace your lesson!** Use the clocks to mark the time you want to finish each section. This will help you stay on track and finish on time. You may need to shorten or drop sections as necessary.





Prepare to Share

SCRIPTURAL BACKGROUND

Prepare to teach by preparing your heart. Read the key passages listed above with this background.

Believers in Jesus Christ are promised amazing things. We are forgiven of sins and have been born again to a living hope—an inheritance that is being kept in heaven for us (1 Peter 1:3–4). We have received the Spirit of adoption and can now call God, “Abba, Father” (Romans 8:15–16). We can come boldly and confidently to the throne of grace where God promises to meet us and mercifully help in our times of need (Hebrews 4:16). These and many more promises are guaranteed to all those who are children of God.

Sinners saved by God’s grace become new creations in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17). The Bible tells us as new creations that we are to present our bodies as living sacrifices that are holy and acceptable to God (Romans 12:1). And as followers of Christ, we have been predestined to be conformed to His image (Romans 8:29).

Christians can be confident that they are God’s workmanship who have been created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God has prepared in advance for them to do (Ephesians 2:10). But that doesn’t mean we don’t have a responsibility to obey the Lord. Jesus told His disciples, “If you love Me, keep My commandments” (John 14:15).

Those commandments can seem demanding. We are to love the Lord our God with ALL our heart, with all our soul, and with all our mind. And we are to love our neighbor as ourselves (Matthew 22:36–39). Even on the best of days this is difficult because the spirit indeed is willing to obey, but the flesh is weak (Matthew 26:41). In fact, because we are sinners, we often find that the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh so that we often do not do the things we wish we would do as followers of Christ (Galatians 5:17).

How then, can we become more like Christ? How can we put to death the deeds of the body (Romans 8:13)?

We will never do it perfectly. In fact, our battle is against the devil himself (Ephesians 6:11–12). But God gives each believer who desires to live a life more like Christ’s the “armor” to stand strong in the day of evil (Ephesians 6:13). The Bible gives us a list of the pieces of this armor.

First, we have the belt of truth to be buckled on (Ephesians 6:14). We know that the devil is the father of lies (John 8:44). Jesus, on the other hand, is the truth (John 14:6). His words, His life, His death, His Resur-

rection—the gospel—is the only truth that can save. We must know the truth of Jesus Christ according to the Bible.

We then see that God provides the breastplate of righteousness (Ephesians 6:14). This breastplate is intended to protect God’s children. The righteousness referred to here is not in any way the righteousness of men. After all, our righteousness is like filthy rags to the Lord (Isaiah 64:6). No. This righteousness is the righteousness of Christ, which is the only righteousness by which sinners can be brought to God (1 Peter 3:18).

We are to put the gospel of peace on our feet (Ephesians 6:15) as we go boldly into all nations, preaching the truth, making disciples, and baptizing them as commanded by Jesus Himself (Matthew 28:19).

Next, we can take up the shield of faith which is meant to protect us from the lies of the devil (Ephesians 6:16). That faith that protects like a shield includes the Word of God. We are told that faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God (Romans 10:17). Faith, trust, and dependence on God’s Word will keep the fiery darts of the evil one from our hearts.

For our heads we are given the helmet of salvation (Ephesians 6:17). We are called to think on the glorious truth of the gospel—Jesus Christ, who knew no sin, was made to be sin for us so that we might become His righteousness (2 Corinthians 5:21). Humbly remembering that Jesus, the Son of God, died a horrible death for our sins will keep our minds gratefully fixed on Him and keep us from discouragement and doubt in the Lord’s salvation—both of which the devil knows can lead us into temptation.

Finally, we come to the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God (Ephesians 6:17). In Jesus’s time the sword was the only weapon a soldier used. And so it is with us. The Word of God is living and active. It is sharper than any two-edged sword (Hebrews 4:12). It is all we need to successfully fend off the temptations Satan desires for us to fall into.

How can we live the Christian life and grow toward holiness? How can we become more like Jesus Christ? We must intentionally put on ALL of the armor of God each day. It is the only way we can keep the devil, the roaring lion who longs to destroy us, at bay (1 Peter 5:8).

HISTORICAL/APOLOGETICS BACKGROUND

The Bible tells us that there is an unseen world in which we live. There are spiritual forces that we cannot see, but they affect our world and wage constant battle

in and around human society. On the one side is Satan and his demonic forces. Satan was originally one of the chiefs of God's heavenly beings; he was a creature of beauty and gave praise to God. However, Satan became jealous, desired to become God, and rebelled, along with other angels, against the Almighty (see Ezekiel 28:12–15 and Isaiah 14:12–15). To this day these demonic forces—these fallen angels—long to prevent people from seeing the light of the gospel and to harass, attack, and corrupt Christians.

On the other side of this eternal conflict is God and His holy angels. The angels are perfect, sinless, powerful creations of God. They are ministering spirits that carry out God's plan, and they work for the benefit of God's people. Their goal is to serve and glorify God. The people of God—born-again believers in Christ—are included as part of this angelic army, while also being protected by its hosts.

In the church today, there seem to be two extreme views on this holy war, this cosmic conflict, with a minority taking the middle ground. On one side are those who, because of a fear of anything even remotely supernatural, either ignore the spiritual conflict, totally rejecting the idea that believers have any role in it, or adopt a kind of agnosticism about it. They admit that a spiritual war exists, but they are unwilling to study it or take part in it.

There are also those who see a demon under every bush, equating sins with specific demons (such as “a demon of lust”) and “binding” Satan on a regular basis. The biblical truth about spiritual warfare lies between these two extremes.

What does the Bible say about spiritual warfare or battle? And what part do we play in it? Most of these spiritual battles are fought out of our sight (see Daniel 10:12–14). But Christians still have a part in them. Our part, however, is not mystical, magical, grand, or highly visible, and it is not flashy or earth-shattering. In a very simple way, Scripture commands us to submit ourselves to God and resist the devil (James 4:7; 1 Peter 5:8–9); we are to cast down imaginations and strongholds in the minds and hearts of people and bring every thought into obedience to Christ (2 Corinthians 10:4–6); we are to take the Word of God to all the world and make disciples (Matthew 28:18–20; Acts 1:8; 1 Thessalonians 1:8), delivering people from the dominion of Satan to God (Acts 26:18); we are to continually study to show ourselves approved by God (2 Timothy 2:15). This is how Christians war! We are not called to war with voodoo-like incantations, or prayers of “claiming” or “binding,” nor are we to war with human philosophy (1 Corinthians 2:1–6). We are to war with the pure Word of God. We fight the good fight with the gospel!

But there is another aspect of this spiritual warfare that we should be aware of. In Ephesians 3, Paul wrote

about the mystery that was hidden for ages. Paul says that God's eternal purpose and plan was accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. And that plan is being made known to the “principalities and powers in the heavenly places” (Ephesians 3:9–10). This revelation is most likely being revealed to both the good and fallen angels, and to the devil himself.

But how is this master plan being made known to them? Paul states that it is made known through the church! The existence, growth, preservation, and work of the church are the great evidence to the heavenly enemies of God that God has won the victory over them through Jesus Christ!

No wonder Satan hates the church! The church is the symbol, the banner, of his ultimate defeat! No wonder the devil does all he can to bring the church down! But Jesus has promised that not even the gates of Hades will prevail against the church (Matthew 16:18).

Believers are involved in the spiritual warfare that wages even today by active participation as members of the church of God. By living a faithful Christian life, by husbands loving their wives as Christ loved the church, by wives loving and submitting to their husbands, by children honoring their parents, by loving God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, by obeying the Great Commission—in all these ways, and many others, we proclaim the final defeat of Satan. You, believer, are a demonstration to Satan and his evil band of their final defeat through the victory of Jesus Christ.

So, when Paul calls us to spiritual warfare in Ephesians 6, to take up the full armor of God, he is actually calling us to faithfulness in the Christian life. All of the elements of the armor of God are simply part of the Christian life: truth, righteousness, salvation, faith, God's Word, the gospel of peace. As we don this armor, we enter into the battle and participate with God's holy angels in the warfare that will rage until Christ returns in glory.



BEFORE THE THRONE

Lord Jesus, you have provided all we need for life and godliness as we fight spiritual battles here on earth. Help us all, Lord, to understand that the “armor” you have given us comes from your Word and the Savior, Jesus Christ. Lord, I pray for my class today, that they will come to understand the power that we have in the truth, righteousness, gospel, faith, and your salvation. Give them a desire to learn the Word of God so they will be strong to stand firm when the testing comes!



COME ON IN

As students arrive . . .

- They will complete the Memory Verse Review Sheet. If time allows, have the students recite the verse together, to each other, or to you.

This time at the beginning of class should be used to review the memory verse. We have provided an activity sheet on the Resource DVD-ROM for you to use. You may have other ideas and ways to encourage your students to memorize the verse.



After all the students arrive, pray with them before beginning the lesson.



REVIEW

Using the Lesson Theme Posters provided with each lesson, quickly review the previous lesson(s) with your students. Take 5 to 10 minutes to reinforce the important truths the students have heard so far in your class.

Ask the children questions about the previous lessons as you display the Lesson Theme Posters. Reflect briefly on the passages you read, bringing the objectives and themes back into focus. This will refresh the truths in your students' minds and maintain continuity as you teach through the lessons.



The Armor of God Class Notes

MATERIALS

- The Armor of God Class Notes for each student
- The Armor of God Class Notes Answer Key
- Pencils

INSTRUCTIONS

Print the class notes for each student. Pass them out at the beginning of class. Have students fill in the blanks as you study the lesson.

- The class notes are designed and written simply. Please encourage and help your students to read them as the class progresses. They are an excellent means to review important lesson principles.

We will complete the class notes as we study the Bible verses. Do not work ahead. We'll fill them in together.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

As we look at our lesson today, we're going to learn about something very important that God gives His children to help them to obey!



Studying God's Word

READ THE WORD

Refer to Lesson 8 Lesson Theme Poster. When we receive Jesus and believe in Him for salvation, we are welcomed into God's family. We become children of God!

- ? What are some of the things sinners receive as children of God? *We are God's children. We are in God's family; Jesus is our Brother. We have an inheritance in heaven.*

These are wonderful things! God welcomes us into His family and promises us eternal life in heaven.

If we are Christians we are supposed to live like we love Jesus. We should live like children of God. I want to read a very short verse to you, but it has a very BIG meaning. It is John 14:15. *Read John 14:15.*

John 14:15

EXAMINE THE WORD

Observe the Text

- ? Who was Jesus talking about in this verse? *John 14:15. People who love Jesus.*
- ? Right. And what should those who love Jesus do? *Re-read John 14:15. Keep His commandments.*

So, if we say we love Jesus, then we have to do our best to obey His commandments. That can seem really hard to do sometimes.

- ? Where would we find those commandments to obey? *Allow discussion. In the Bible.*

Yes! And the Bible is a very big book. But Jesus helps us with this. He told His disciples what the two *greatest* commandments are!

Let's see what He told them. I am going to read Matthew 22:37–38 first. Listen carefully. *Read Matthew 22:37–38 enthusiastically.*

- ? What did Jesus say this commandment was? *Matthew 22:38. The first and greatest commandment.*

And what is the first and the greatest commandment of all? *Re-read Matthew 22:37 if necessary. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.*

- ? What does that mean? *Allow discussion.*

It means that we should put God first in everything we do. He should be first in our heart before anyone or anything else. He should be first in our soul and mind. He should be the main thing we think about, desire, and want to know about. He should be the one we want to please no matter what we are doing. This is a BIG command . . . and difficult to do!

And that wasn't the only command. Jesus gave another one. Listen to this one! It is in Matthew 22:39. *Read Matthew 22:39 with enthusiasm.*

- ? What is that commandment about? *Allow discussion.*

It is about loving your neighbor like you love yourself!

- ? What does that mean? What are some ways you can love your neighbor? *Allow discussion.*

Well, neighbors in this verse doesn't mean your next door neighbor. It means other Christians, your friends, family, and even strangers. We can

Matthew 22:37–38

► Re-read the verses or the portion of the verse(s) that answer the questions you are asking of the text.

Matthew 22:39

obey this command by being kind, obeying when we should, sharing with others, being generous, and treating others the way we'd want them to treat us. This verse is about putting others' needs and wants before our own. It has a lot to do with serving others even when we don't want to.

Discover the Truth

Jesus calls these the two greatest commandments! Love God with ALL our hearts and love our neighbors as ourselves. These are not easy commands to obey because every human being is born with a sin nature. That sin nature makes us selfish and greedy. We are more interested in our own problems and lives than we are interested in others. This is what makes obeying these so difficult.

Let's look at the class notes now. You will see shapes on each question. You need to match the shape in the question with the shape in the word bank. Then write the answer on the line!

? Look at #1. What should everyone who loves Jesus do? What is the answer? *Assign a reader. Obey. Have students fill in #1 on the class notes.*

? Good! How about #2? How should we love God? Someone read that for us. *Assign a reader. Heart. Have students fill in #2 on the class notes.*

? And what about #3? Can someone read that for us? What is the answer? *Assign a reader. Love. Have students fill in #3 on the class notes.*



➤ Because of the age and ability of 1st and 2nd graders to read and comprehend, we have written these lessons for you to read the Scriptures to the students. However, please encourage your students to bring Bibles to class. And if you have strong readers, by all means have them participate by reading God's Word.

READ THE WORD

These two commandments are so hard for people to obey! The Bible says it's like we're fighting a battle every day to obey God. But guess what! God has provided something to help us fight this battle and have the strength to say no to sin! We are going to find out what that is!

But before we get started with this part of the lesson, I have some pictures to hand out. I will ask you to put these on the board in a few minutes. *Pass out the seven Lesson Illustrations to several students.*

OK. I am going to read Ephesians 6:13. Listen and tell me what God has provided for believers so they can take a stand against evil and sin! *Read Ephesians 6:13 emphasizing "armor of God."*

Ephesians 6:13

EXAMINE THE WORD

Observe the Text

? Wow! What does God tell all believers to take up? *The whole armor of God.*

This verse tells us that when evil comes and we are tempted to disobey and sin, we will be able to stand firm and obey God IF we have the whole armor of God on!

➤ Re-read the verses or the portion of the verse(s) that answer the questions you are asking.

➤ Refer often to the Lesson Illustrations that the students are putting on the board.

Ephesians 6:14a

➤ Refer also to the Lesson Theme Poster as you go through each of these pieces of armor.

Ephesians 6:14b

? Who has picture #1? Will you bring it up, please? *Have student bring up Lesson Illustration #1 and attach it to the board with tape or poster putty.*

? What has God given to His children so they can become more like Christ and sin less? *The armor of God!*

? How much of the armor are we to put on? *Allow discussion. All of it!*

That's right. God commands us to put on the **WHOLE** armor.

Hmmm. I wonder which piece comes first? Let's see what the Bible says. Listen to Ephesians 6:14. *Read Ephesians 6:14a with enthusiasm.*

? This talks about putting something around our waist. What do we sometimes wear around our waist? *Allow discussion. A belt.*

? That's right. And this talks about a special belt. What is this belt called? *Truth.*

? It is the belt of truth. Who has picture #2? Will you bring that up now? *Have student bring up Lesson Illustration #2 and attach it to the board.*

We need to know God's truth and wrap it around us like putting on a belt. If we know the truth, then we can stand strong and will be able to obey God's commands.

? Who is the only truth? Who said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life?" *Allow discussion. Jesus.*

That's right! Jesus is the **ONLY** truth. The belt of truth is Jesus. We must know, believe, love, and learn about Jesus! The belt of truth stands for Jesus Christ, the Savior!

? There is another piece of God's armor mentioned here. Listen as I read it. *Read Ephesians 6:14b. Breastplate of righteousness.*

? Who has picture #3, the breastplate? *Have student bring up Lesson Illustration #3 and attach it to the board.*

The breastplate of righteousness. A breastplate protected a soldier's chest.

? What does righteousness mean? *Allow discussion.*

Righteousness means good, perfect, and holy!

? Who was the only person who ever lived a life like that? He was good, perfect, and holy **ALL** of His life? *Jesus.*

That's right. Jesus is the only one who is truly righteous and good. But, if you believe in Jesus and what He did on the Cross for sinners, then His righteousness becomes your righteousness. And this breastplate of righteousness—Jesus's righteousness—will protect your heart and help you to obey God's commands.

Refer to Lesson Illustrations and Lesson Theme Poster. So, we have the belt of truth and the breastplate of righteousness. These both come from Jesus! Let's take

a look at another piece of armor. I am going to read Ephesians 6:15. *Read Ephesians 6:15.*

- ? Hmmm. I have a question for you. How many of you shod your feet this morning? *Show of hands. Anyone with shoes on should raise his hand.*
- ? To shod means to put your shoes on. What are we supposed to have on our feet as part of the armor of God? *Allow discussion. The gospel of peace.*
- ? Who has picture #4? Put it up here. *Have student bring up Lesson Illustration #4 and attach it to the board.*
- ? Refer to the Romans 1:16 Memory Verse Poster from Quarter 3. Our memory verse a while back talked about the gospel. Can someone recite Romans 1:16? Or read it from this poster. *Assign a student to recite/read Romans 1:16.*
- ? This verse says we are not to be ashamed of the gospel. What is the gospel? *Allow discussion. The power of God to those who are being saved.*

That's right. The gospel is the power of God to those who are being saved. We are to know the gospel and share the gospel with others. It is called the gospel of peace because it brings peace with God for everyone who believes that Jesus died so sinners can be forgiven and saved.

Christians are told to go and teach this gospel to all nations, including our friends, family, and neighbors! So, we need to put on the gospel and wear it everywhere we go—just like shoes!

Let's move on. I will read Ephesians 6:16. *Read Ephesians 6:16 emphasizing "shield of faith."*

- ? What does this verse tell us to take? *The shield of faith.*
- ? Right! A soldier needs a shield to protect him from the enemy's arrows. Let's put picture #5 up now. Who has that one? *Have student bring up Lesson Illustration #5 and attach it to the board.*

Our shield of faith comes from hearing the Word of God! It is an important piece of the armor of God. We must know, believe, trust, and obey God's Word!

- ? And who are we to put our faith in according to the Bible? *Jesus.*
- That's right. We must have faith in Jesus! Jesus is our shield of faith. The faith we have in Jesus will help us to fight sin and obey God's commands more! It will be like a shield protecting us from attack!

Just two more pieces to go. Listen to Ephesians 6:17. *Read Ephesians 6:17a.*

- ? What is this verse about? *The helmet of salvation.*
- ? What does a helmet protect? *The head. The brain.*
- ? Who has picture #6? Bring that up now. *Have student bring up Lesson Illustration #6 and attach it to the board.*

Ephesians 6:17b

- ? Believers have the helmet of salvation. Who is the only one who can give salvation to sinners? *Allow discussion. Jesus!*

That's right! Salvation is in Jesus alone. All Christians—sinners who are saved by God's grace—should remember and think about their salvation—it is real, it is wonderful, and it alone can bring eternal life with God! Put that helmet of salvation on your head! When you remember Jesus died for sinners, you will start to hate your sin and want to obey God.

Our last one! The last piece of armor! And it is a weapon! The only offensive weapon we need. Listen to Ephesians 6:17. *Read Ephesians 6:17b.*

- ? What is this weapon that God provides for us? *The sword of the Spirit.*
- ? What is the sword of the Spirit? *The Word of God!*
- ? Right! The sword of the Spirit is the Word of God! Who has that picture? It's #7. Will you bring it up now? *Have student bring up Lesson Illustration #7 and attach it to the board.*

This is a very important piece of God's armor. And it isn't really armor—it is a weapon. The sword of the Spirit is the Word of God. If we know God's Word, read it regularly, pray for understanding, and obey it, we will be ready to fight sin and obey God.

Discover the Truth

As children of God, we should want to honor God by obeying Him in all we do. But this is really hard to do sometimes. God knows that, so He has given us His armor! This is not something we actually put on! But it is something we love and learn. The armor of God comes from knowing Jesus well and loving Him, and reading God's Word and loving it!

- ? What a great lesson! Let's go back to the class notes. Will someone look at #4? What is the answer to that? *Assign a reader. Jesus. Have students fill in #4 on the class notes.*
- ? Now #5. Who will read that one? What should we remember about the breastplate of righteousness? *Assign a reader. Holy. Have students fill in #5 on the class notes.*
- ? And #6? What about that? What is the answer? *Assign a reader. Go. Have students fill in #6 on the class notes.*
- ? And #7? Who can read that one? What is the answer to that? *Assign a reader. Faith. Have students fill in #7 on the class notes.*
- ? What about the helmet of salvation? What should we remember about that? Will someone read #8? *Assign a reader. Sinners. Have students fill in #8 on the class notes.*
- ? And the last one, #9. What is the sword of the Spirit? Who will read it? *Assign a reader. Word. Have students fill in #9 on the class notes.*



► If time allows, do a quick review of each point on the class notes.



The Armor of God Matching Game

MATERIALS

- One set of 14 The Armor of God Matching Cards
- One set of matching cards for each student to take home
- Envelopes or plastic bags to put students' cards into

INSTRUCTIONS

Divide the class into two teams. Print and cut out The Armor of God Matching Cards—14 cards per set. Divide the class into teams. Lay the cards out face down on the floor or tape them to the wall. The teams will take turns choosing two cards, turning them over to see if they match. If they do not match, flip the cards back over. The teammates can help each other decide which cards to choose.

You can make it more challenging by printing 4 copies of each and playing the game with twice as many cards to choose from.

Discuss each piece of armor as the students find matches. Remind them that the armor of God will help them to obey and grow in their faith. All of this armor is found in Jesus Christ and the Word of God.

We're going to play a card matching game today. Let's get into two teams. *Or divide class*

appropriately. Each card has a piece of the armor of God on it. And there are two of each card in the deck.

You will take turns flipping cards over to get a match. If they don't match, turn them back over, and the next team will play. When you do find a match, you can explain what the picture on the card has to do with what we learned in our lesson today. Whichever team gets the most matches wins the game. Let's play!

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

God gives Christians special armor. We can't see God's armor. And we don't pull it over our heads like a shirt. This armor is spiritual. It is all found in the Bible and in Jesus Christ. We get God's armor by reading God's Word, learning about Jesus, and praying to God every day. God's armor helps us to obey Him!





Memory Verse Review Game (Optional)

1 Thessalonians 5:16–18 Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

If you find you have extra time, please consider reviewing the memory verse with your class by playing this game.

MATERIALS

- Memory Verse Poster
- One set of Memory Verse Flashcards
- Masking tape
- Optional: Timer

INSTRUCTIONS

Allow students to look at the Memory Verse Poster and say the verse together as a class a couple of times. Remove or cover the poster before the game begins. Tape the Memory Verse Flashcards onto students' backs. Students will work together to put themselves in order according to the memory verse. If you have a large class, make two sets of flashcards and have teams race to put themselves in order. Once they think they are standing in order, check the verse by reading the words out loud according to how they are standing. If you have fewer students, tape more than one flashcard, in the proper order, on some students.

We're going to practice our memory verse. Let's say the verse together a couple times. *Cover the poster before starting the game.*

Tape the flashcards onto the students' backs. Now I am going to tape these Memory Verse Flashcards onto your backs! Once I have done that, I want you to work together to get into the right order. We'll check the verse when you are finished. Most groups may need a time limit to encourage them to move at a quick pace. If so, let them know the limit and use a timer to count down the time. Once the students think they are in the right order, check them by reading the words out loud.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

These verses tell us some important things about how to live as Christians.

? **What three things should we do according to these verses?** *Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks.*

Right! And we can do these things because God is faithful, and we can trust His perfect will for us.





Applying God's Word

WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

Jesus said the greatest commandments are to love the Lord your God with all your heart and to love your neighbor as yourself. This isn't easy! So, God has given us help. He has given us armor. But that armor isn't anything we put on. The armor is God's truth, His righteousness, His gospel, His faith, His salvation, and His Word. This armor is all found in the holy Bible and in the life and truth of Jesus Christ. This is what can keep us safe from sin and help us to grow more like Jesus each day!

GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

Refer to Lesson Theme Poster and Lesson Illustrations on the board. God gives us all these images about battle and armor and swords for a reason. It's because He wants you to know that there is a battle that you can't see being fought all around you every day. That battle is for your heart! You see, when you become a child of God, you become a new creation. But there are some parts of your old self left, and you will always want to sin against God—even though you know you shouldn't. And, we have an enemy—the devil—who is trying to defeat us.

The only thing that will help you in this battle is to learn more about God and Jesus through His Word. This takes effort! Just like a soldier would wear all his armor in a battle to protect himself, you must keep learning about Jesus and what God's Word says about Him. Every piece of armor we talked about points to Jesus and His Word. As you grow, I pray you will learn more about Jesus and come to love God's Word! That is how you will become a strong soldier for Jesus! That is how you will be able to obey Him and win the battle.



► Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets and remind the children to practice the memory verse this week.



MEMORY VERSE

1 Thessalonians 5:16–18 Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.



GROUP PRAYER TIME

- Praise God for His Word that equips us to fight the battle against sin.
- Ask God to help us know and use the armor He's given us to love and obey Him.

