



# 10

## The Armor of God



### Key Passage

- Ephesians 6:13–17

### Lesson Focus

- God gives His children armor so we can obey.

## Lesson Overview



### Come On In

Students will make and decorate watches to remind them that they can pray to God any time, every day! They may also play with play dough.



### Circle Time

**Prayer**—Using the Flip Chart Prayer Page, discuss prayer and give each child the opportunity to pray after determining what type of prayer you will offer today.

**God's Word**—When Christians put on the whole armor of God, they will be stronger, ready to obey God, and able to fight sin!

**Song Time**—Students will sing songs to help them remember the lesson of the day. Lyrics to the songs are found on the Flip Chart Song Page and the Song Sheet at the back of this Teacher Guide.



### Activity 1: Musical Armor

Students will play a game like musical chairs to review the different pieces of the armor of God.



### Activity 2: Armor of God Matching

Students will review the different pieces of the armor of God as they match picture cards. As they play, read and briefly discuss what is pictured on each card.



### Memory Verse Review and Activity

Students will review the memory verse as they play a game and recite/sing the verse. Give them an opportunity to repeat the verse with you or after you individually.



### Applying God's Word/Snack

Students will review the lesson while enjoying the snack for the day.

# Lesson Preparation

## WHAT YOU WILL DO

## WHAT YOU WILL NEED



### FOR THE TEACHER

- Study the Prepare to Share section.
- Go Before the Throne.



### COME ON IN

- Print and cut out one Watch Face from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student.
- Cut strips of construction paper to make “watch bands.” Make one per student.
- Provide play dough if appropriate.

- One Watch Face for each student
- Construction paper
- Crayons
- Glue or tape
- Plastic jewels, stickers, etc. (optional)
- Play dough
- Cookie cutters



### CIRCLE TIME

- Practice the songs on the Song Sheet at the back of this Teacher Guide.

- Stuffed animal for prayer time
- Bible
- Quarter 3, Romans 1:16 Flip Chart Memory Verse Page



### MUSICAL ARMOR

- Print one copy of the six Armor of God Illustrations from the Resource DVD-ROM.
- Tape the Armor of God Illustrations to the back of chairs in a large circle.

- Six Armor of God Illustrations
- Tape
- CD Player (optional)
- Worship CD (optional)



### ARMOR OF GOD MATCHING GAME

- Print and cut out two each of the six Armor of God Matching Cards from the Resource DVD-ROM. Twelve cards per set.
- Print enough sets of the matching cards so each table of students can play.
- Print additional sets for each child to take home. Put these in envelopes or small plastic bags.

- Armor of God Matching Cards (12 cards per set)
- Enough sets of cards 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 AND ACTIVITY

- Print and cut out one set of the 9 Memory Verse Flashcards from the Resource DVD-ROM—preferably on cardstock. You will use these flashcards for Lessons 7–12.

- Flip Chart Memory Verse Page
- Nine Memory Verse Flashcards
- Tape or poster putty



### APPLYING GOD'S WORD/SNACK

- Prepare and bring snacks.

- Student Take Home Sheets
- Lesson Flip Chart for Review
- Snacks



# 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 children arrive . . .

- They will assemble and decorate watches as a review of Lesson 9. Remind them that they can pray to God any time, every day!
- If there is time, they can play with play dough.

*During this time you should be at the door welcoming the children as they come in and directing them to sit down at the tables and begin the activity. Have an aid/helper ready to engage the children with the activity.*



## REVIEW

Using the Flip Chart, quickly review the previous lessons 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 Flip Chart Pages. Remind the children of each lesson's focus. This will refresh the truths in your students' minds and maintain continuity as you teach through the lessons.



## Circle Time

*In an orderly manner, have the children assemble in a circle away from the tables—either on the floor or in their chairs. Bring your Lesson Flip Chart, Bible, stuffed animal for prayer time, Quarter 3, Romans 1:16 Memory Verse Poster, and any other props you brought or prepared for the lesson.*

### PRAYER

*This prayer time is designed to get children to begin to understand some simple concepts about prayer and to get them to understand that they can pray. Use a special stuffed animal—prayer bear—or an appropriate object to pass around the circle as each child gets his/her turn to pray. Only the child with the stuffed animal is allowed to pray or speak during this time. Using the same stuffed animal or other object all year will add continuity and structure to this time.*

**We start our Bible study with prayer. Let's pray.** Turn to the Flip Chart Prayer Page. Briefly review the different types of prayer presented there. Then determine which type you want the children to pray today.

- I love you prayers—Adoration
- I'm sorry prayers—Confession
- Thank you prayers—Thanksgiving
- Please prayers—Supplication

*Today Adoration is suggested. You might proceed this way:*

**Today let's say prayers of adoration—and tell God how much we love Him.**

*The prayers you begin with should be specific to your needs. This will model to the children that you believe God does care about all the details of your life, and you pray to Him about these things. Your example will increase their confidence in praying to God.*

**I'll start. Dear God, you are great and good. You alone are worthy of praise. I praise you today for . . .** *(insert personal prayer).*

➤ Prior to making your transition to Circle Time, we suggest you take time for restroom breaks and hand washing.

➤ Preschoolers need to move. This is a good opportunity to get them to move. Make an orderly transition to the Circle Time. You can have carpet squares if you want to sit on the floor, or help them to move their chairs into the circle.

Pass the stuffed animal around the circle giving all the children an opportunity to say a prayer praising God!

► As you teach, refer often to the Lesson Flip Chart Page to keep the children engaged. When reading the lesson Scriptures, stand up, be enthusiastic, look at the children, and emphasize the answers to the questions you will be asking.

### Bible Pass Around

► Before Bible Pass Around, place a sticky note in your Bible to mark the first passage to be read.

► When the Bible Pass Around Activity is completed, continue with the lesson.

**Very good! Now let's put our stuffed animal away, and we'll get into God's Word.**

## GOD'S WORD

*These first five questions will be repeated each week this quarter. The repetition of these questions will help to solidify these simple but foundational truths in the children's minds at a young age.*

- ? **What is sin?** *Sin is any disobedience against God.*
- ? **Who is a sinner?** *Every person is born in sin.*
- ? **Did Jesus ever sin?** *No. He lived a sinless life.*
- ? **Does everyone go to heaven?** *No. Only those whose hearts are changed and believe in Jesus.*
- ? **What does it mean to believe in Jesus?** *To trust that Jesus alone can save me.*

*The following activity should be repeated at the beginning of each lesson to encourage anticipation and enthusiasm for looking into the Word of God. Use a sticky note to mark today's passage before you begin.*

**We are going to start out today by looking into God's Word, the Bible. Hold up Bible. God's Word is true, and we can trust what it says. But where should we look? One of you will help me with that. We're going to play Bible Pass Around. Whoever ends up with the Bible must hold it very carefully until it is time to look in it. When it is time to read, you can bring it to me, and we'll open it to see what we are going to talk about! Here's what we're going to do. I want everyone to count with me up to the number *choose a number. You may also choose to practice the alphabet, recite the books of the Bible, sing one of the lesson songs, or recite the memory verse as you do this activity.* We'll start right here. Hand the Bible to the first student. As we say each number (or word) you must carefully pass the Bible to the person beside you—remember, we don't want to drop it or tear it. Then when we get to the last number (or word), whoever has the Bible will hold on to it until we are ready to start our lesson. Are you ready? Let's begin. You may want to have the student with the Bible stand next to you until it is time to open it. Continue with the lesson when finished with Bible Pass Around.**

*Refer to Lesson 8 Flip Chart Page.* **We have been learning wonderful things about God! Let's talk about some of it!**

- ? **What do all Christians become when they believe in Jesus?** *Allow discussion. Children of God.*

**God makes all believers His children! When we become Christians, we are welcomed into God's family. God is our Father, and Jesus is our Brother!**

*Refer to Lesson 9 Flip Chart Page.* **When we become God's children, we can talk to God just like you talk to your moms and your dads! God is now our Father in heaven. And He wants us to talk to Him.**

? How can we talk to God every day? *Allow discussion. By praying to Him.*

We can pray to God!

? When can we pray to God? *Allow discussion.*

We can pray to God any time, every day! It is wonderful being a child of God, believing in Jesus, and praying to God every day! But sometimes it is hard because we are all sinners and we still want to sin—even when we love God and believe in Jesus! We can't be perfect—and we need help! But, God gives us something that will help us obey Him! And the Bible tells us what that is!

I am going to read Ephesians 6:13.

*Make this a special time as the student brings the Bible, and he/she opens it to where the sticky note is. Show the students where the book of Ephesians is. Let them look at it. Carry it around your circle.*

This verse tells us what God gives to all of His children—everyone who believes in Jesus and receives God's free gift of grace! Listen and tell me if you can tell what it is! *Read Ephesians 6:13 emphasizing "armor."*

? Did you hear it? What does God give us? *Armor!*

God gives us armor to put on! Now this isn't REAL heavy metal armor. This armor comes from God's Word. And God promises that if we put it on, we will be able to obey God better. Let's see just what this armor is!

? *Hold up your Bible.* Guess where we are going to find out about God's armor? *Allow discussion. In the Bible!*

That's right! In the Bible! And I am going to read Ephesians 6:14 right now! *Read Ephesians 6:14a.*

? This talks about putting something around our waist. What do we put around our waist when we get dressed? *Allow discussion. A belt!*

? That's right. God gives us a belt to put around our waist. Will one of you come up here and find the "belt of truth" on the Flip Chart? *Ask a student to come up and point to the belt on the Lesson Flip Chart Page.*

? *Hold up your Bible.* Now we don't have a real belt from God! But where can we find God's truth? *In the Bible.*

? Yes! And who is the Bible about? Who is God's truth? Who did God send to die for sinners? *Jesus.*

That's right. Our first piece of armor is the belt of truth. The truth is Jesus and God's Word! The truth will help us to obey God better.

Now let's see what the next piece of armor is. I am going to read Ephesians 6:14b. *Read the verse, emphasizing "breastplate."*

*Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart Page.* This verse says to put on the "breastplate of righteousness." A breastplate covered a soldier's chest.

➤ If you made the prayer watch for the Come On In Activity, you can refer to that.

Ephesians 6:13

Ephesians 6:14a

➤ As you read each verse and discuss each piece of armor, point it out on the Flip Chart or have the children come and show the class where the different pieces are.

Ephesians 6:14b

- ? Righteousness is holiness. And there is only one person who ever lived who was completely holy and righteous. Who was that? *Allow discussion. Jesus!*
- ? Someone come up here and find the “breastplate of righteousness” on the Flip Chart. *Ask a student to come up and point to the breastplate on the Lesson Flip Chart Page.*

Jesus is the only one who is perfectly righteous and holy. But, Jesus gives sinners who trust in Him His righteousness! And that is what this breastplate stands for—Jesus’s righteousness! It will help us obey all of God’s commands!

## Ephesians 6:15

*Refer to Lesson Flip Chart Page.* Let’s go on to the next piece of God’s armor! Listen carefully, and tell me if you know which piece this is! *Read Ephesians 6:15 enthusiastically emphasizing “feet.”*

- ? What part of the body is this verse talking about? *Feet.*
- ? What does a soldier put on his feet? *Shoes.*

*Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart Page.* That’s right. This says that the shoes of God’s armor is the gospel! Someone come up here and find the “shoes of the gospel” on the Flip Chart. *Ask a student to come up and point to the shoes on the Lesson Flip Chart Page.*

- ? Who is the gospel about? *Jesus.*

*Refer to Quarter 3, Romans 1:16 Flip Chart Memory Verse Page if available.* Yes! The gospel is about Jesus! Remember this verse? We learned it a while ago! Let’s read it together. It is Romans 1:16. *Read Romans 1:16 together or sing the Memory Verse Song.*

This says that we should not be ashamed of the gospel because it is the power of God to save sinners! The gospel is about Jesus! And it is part of God’s armor for Christians.

## Ephesians 6:16

- ? But there is more! Listen to this verse, and look at our Flip Chart. Which piece of God’s armor is this talking about? *Read Ephesians 6:16 emphasizing “shield of faith.”*
- ? Did you hear it? Which piece of armor does this talk about? *The shield.*
- ? *Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart Page.* Yes! The Bible calls this the shield of faith! Someone show us the shield of faith on the Flip Chart. *Ask a student to come up and point to the shield on the Lesson Flip Chart Page.*
- ? If we are children of God, what should we have faith in? *Allow discussion.*  
We should have faith in Jesus, God, the Bible, and everything that is written in it! If we have that faith, we won’t want to sin against God! The shield of faith is an important part of God’s armor!
- ? *Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart Page.* But there is still more! What is this on the soldier’s head? *A helmet!*

Someone come up here and show us the helmet! Ask a student to come up and point to the helmet on the Lesson Flip Chart Page.

Now listen to what the Bible says about the helmet. Read Ephesians 6:17a emphasizing the word “salvation.”

Ephesians 6:17a

- ? What is the helmet in God’s armor called? *Salvation!*
- ? What part of the body does the helmet protect? *The head.*

That’s right. The helmet protects the head! Christians should think about the salvation they have because of Jesus Christ. They should remember the gospel. They can remember that one day they will be in heaven with Jesus! Remembering the gospel will protect our minds—like a helmet protects our head!

- ? Refer to Lesson Flip Chart Page. There is one more piece of armor. What haven’t we talked about yet? *Allow discussion.*

It is the sword! Listen to what God’s Word says about the sword. Read Ephesians 6:17b emphasizing “word of God.”

Ephesians 6:17b

- ? Hold your Bible in the air. What is the sword of the Spirit? *The Word of God!*
- ? And what is the Word of God? *The Bible!*

Someone show us the sword of the Spirit on the Flip Chart. Ask a student to come up and point to the sword on the Lesson Flip Chart Page.

God gives us a sword as a part of our armor! It is His Word! If we know His Word, we have a very powerful weapon. Knowing the Word of God helps us to live like Jesus and honor God.

Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart Page. This is the armor of God! God gives this armor to His children. If we put all of this armor on—the belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, shoes of the gospel, the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God—we will be strong and ready to obey God and say no to sin!

## SONG TIME

Turn to the Flip Chart Memory Verse Page. Our memory verse says to rejoice always, to pray without ceasing, and to give thanks to God in ALL things! Let’s sing our Memory Verse Song now! Sing the Memory Verse Song while marching around the circle.

Turn to the Flip Chart Song Page. Putting on the armor of God helps us to be ready to fight sin. We are able to obey God better when we are wearing our armor! We are going to learn a fun, new song about the armor of God. Listen as I sing it. Repeat after me! Sing “The Armor of God” together two or three times as you act out putting on the armor.

Repeat songs as time allows. You may want to add hand motions, stomping, marching, or instruments.

- Turn to the Flip Chart Song Page and Flip Chart Memory Verse Page during this part of the lesson.
- Lyrics can be found on the Flip Chart Song Page and the Song Sheet at the end of this Teacher Guide.



# Musical Armor

## MATERIALS

- Six Armor of God Illustrations
- Tape
- CD player
- Worship CD

## INSTRUCTIONS

*This game is like musical chairs. Put chairs in a circle. Tape the six Armor of God Illustrations to six chairs placed in the circle. Play music or sing The Armor of God song from the Teacher Guide or Flip Chart Song Page.*

*When the music stops, students should sit down. Ask only one student who is sitting on a chair with an Armor of God Illustration to share with the class what piece of armor they have. Briefly discuss that piece. Play the game again until all six of the pieces have been discussed.*

**Today we're going to play a game like musical chairs. Stand in the circle. When**

you hear the music start, begin walking. When the music stops sit down in a chair. Some of you will sit on a chair with one of the pieces of the armor of God on it. I will call on one person to tell about the piece of armor on his or her chair. Then we will play again! We will keep playing until we have heard about ALL of God's armor!

## CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

The armor of God helps protect God's children. It helps them obey God and do what is right. When we wear the armor of God, we will be ready to fight sin and do what pleases God. God wants us to wear His armor every day!



# Armor of God Matching Game

## MATERIALS

- One set of 12 Armor of God Matching Cards for each group of students playing the game.
- One set of matching cards for each student to take home
- Envelopes or plastic bags to put students' cards into

## INSTRUCTIONS

*Print and cut out two each of the six Armor of God Matching Cards from the Resource DVD-ROM. Make one set of 12 cards for each group of students playing the game together. Students will play a matching game by trying to match the pictures on the cards. As they play and turn cards over, 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.*

*Make additional sets of cards for the children to take home with them.*

**We are going to play a card game today. I have six different cards. But there are two**

**of each card here in this stack. I am going to lay the cards face down, and you will take turns trying to find the card that matches it. Each of these cards has a piece of armor on it! Let's go through them before we start.**

*Show and discuss the six cards before you begin play—the belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, the shoes of the gospel of peace, the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation, the sword of the Spirit.*

## CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

**God gives Christians special armor. We can't see this kind of armor. And we don't pull it over our heads like a shirt. This armor is spiritual. We put it on by reading God's Word, learning about Jesus, and praying to God every day. Wearing the armor of God helps us to obey God.**



# Memory Verse Review and Activity

**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.

## MATERIALS

- Flip Chart Memory Verse Page
- Memory Verse Flashcards printed on cardstock (they will be used in Lesson 7–12)
- Tape or poster putty

## INSTRUCTIONS

Review the memory verse from the Flip Chart Memory Verse Page. Print, preferably onto cardstock, and cut out one set of the Memory Verse Flashcards. Pass the flashcards to nine students. Ask, “Who has the first flashcard?” Instruct the student to put the flashcard on the wall or board. Do the same for the remaining flashcards until all of them are on the wall in the proper order. Then call on students to remove the cards one at a time—reciting the verse after each card is removed.

**We’re going to practice our memory verse. Let’s say it first.** Refer to the Flip Chart Memory Verse Page.

Pass out the nine Memory Verse Flashcards. **Good job! Now here are nine flashcards with the**

memory verse on them. I want you to bring these flashcards up and put them on the board while we practice the verse. Who has **Flashcard #1?** Continue placing the flashcards in order on the board. Refer to the pictures and say the verse as the students bring the flashcards up.

**Good job! Now I’m going to ask one of you to come up and take one of our flashcards down. Then we’ll say the verse without that flashcard! Do you think we can do it? Of course we can! Ok let’s do it!** Call on a student to take down one flashcard then recite the verse together. Help the students to recite the verse after each flashcard is removed. Continue until the flashcards are gone.

You may want to sing the Memory Verse Song instead of saying the verse. When finished, see if anyone can say the verse using the Flip Chart Memory Verse Page.

## CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

Jesus died on the Cross and rose from the grave! Now sinners can have eternal life in heaven one day! Everyone who believes in Jesus will be saved! This is something to rejoice about! And to pray about! And to be thankful for just like our memory verse says.



# Applying God's Word/Snack

## WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

*After thanking God for your snack, review today's lesson using the Flip Chart.*

We learned about the armor of God! God gives this armor to His children. If we put all of this armor on—the belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, shoes of the gospel, the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the spirit which is the Word of God—we will be stronger and ready to obey God and say no to sins! We get this armor from God's Word! And knowing and trusting in Jesus Christ!

## GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

God gives Christians special armor to help fight sin and obey God more. This special armor is not something we wear! We can't see God's armor with our eyes. It is spiritual armor. It is found in the Word of God! We need to put God's armor on every day. It will help us obey God better!

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



## Group Prayer Time

- Thank God for giving us His special armor—the armor of God!
- Praise God that the armor of God will help Christians obey God.
- Pray that we will remember to put on the armor of God every day.

**Do you still have more time? Review the past quarters using the Flip Charts, add another coloring sheet, recite and review the current and past memory verses, sing more songs, bring out play dough. Keep the children occupied with intentional, God-centered activities until their parents come to pick them up.**

# Song Sheet

## 1 THESSALONIANS 5:16–18

*(To the tune of “Are You Sleeping?”)*

Re-joyce always,  
*(Are you sleeping?)*

Pray with-out ceasing,  
*(Are you sleeping?)*

In everything  
*(Brother John?)*

Gi-ive thanks;  
*(Brother John?)*

For this is the will of God  
*(Morning bells are ringing,)*

In Christ Jesus for you.  
*(Morning bells are ringing.)*

1 Thessalonians  
*(Ding, ding, dong,)*

5:16–18  
*(Ding, ding, dong,)*

## THE ARMOR OF GOD

*(To the tune of “The Farmer in the Dell”)*

*Act out putting on the armor of God as you sing.*

We wear the armor of God.  
*(The farmer in the dell,)*

We wear it every day.  
*(The farmer in the dell,)*

We wear it to obey-ey God,  
*(Hi-Ho the derry-o,)*

The ar-armor of God.  
*(The farmer in the dell,)*

Put on the belt of truth.

Put on the breastplate, too.

We wear it to obey-ey God,  
The ar-armor of God.

Put on the gospel shoes.

Put on the helmet, too.

We wear it to obey-ey God,  
The ar-armor of God.

The shield of faith comes next.

And then we have the sword.

The sword is the Word of God.

The ar-armor of God.

**Think of fun ways to sing. Get children in a circle holding hands. They can go in one direction and at each verse quickly reverse direction. Put one or more than one child in the middle of the circle. Go around them then move in and back out! Get them into a straight line. Have them follow you around the room.**