

LESSON 4: THE ARMOR OF GOD: SHIELD OF FAITH

Classroom: My One Room Classroom Leader Guide for One Room

04/19/2020

Ephesians 6:10-12, 16; Genesis 6–9; Hebrews 11:7

Teachers Dig In

Dig In to the Bible

- Read: Ephesians 6:10-12, 16; Genesis 6–9; Hebrews 11:7
- In This Passage: Paul talks about the spiritual battle we're fighting against evil, and he tells us to carry a shield of faith. Like a shield, faith protects our hearts because we trust God will keep his promises. Noah did just that when he obeyed God and built an ark to prepare for the flood. Like Noah, we can have faith.
- Bible Point: We fight evil with faith.
- Summary Verse: "Therefore, put on every piece of God's armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm" (Ephesians 6:13).

Dig Deeper

- You'll Be Teaching: *We fight evil with faith.* Faith comes more naturally to kids than adults. Younger kids generally accept anything an adult tells them is true. But as kids start to grow older, they begin to wrestle with doubts and questions. That's not a bad thing at all! But the shield of faith can protect kids from letting those doubts and questions chip away at their hearts.
- Think About: What are you struggling with right now? How can faith be a shield to protect your heart in the midst of that struggle?

Dig In to Prayer

- Ask God to shield your kids not from hardships, but from letting hardships hurt their faith.

Quick Tip

- Here's a tip to help kids grow in their faith: Don't ever discourage genuine faith questions. Sometimes it can feel like questions are the enemy of faith. But questions just means kids are wanting to understand more! By ignoring their questions, you may be encouraging kids to turn to secular sources for answers. By embracing questions and keeping the dialogue open, you can show kids that questions can help us grow in our faith.

This Lesson at a Glance



OPENING [5 min]

Welcome

Supplies

- Bible

Easy Prep

- Ensure the “Knight” handout is still hanging on the wall. If you need to print a new one, download it [here](#).

Welcome

- Thank kids for coming.
- Make announcements.
- Introduce new kids.

Introduce the Lesson

Say: We’re learning about the armor of God. In battles, soldiers wear armor to protect themselves. We’re not in a war against people, but the Bible says we’re in a war against unseen powers of evil! But don’t worry; we’re on the winning side: God’s side! And we have his special armor to put on, including the shield of our faith. Our faith can protect our hearts from the enemy.

Share

- Tell kids something *you* believe will happen this week.
- Have kids form pairs. Ask kids to share something *they* believe will happen this week.
- After partners have shared, ask two or three kids to share with the whole group.

Summarize

Open a Bible to Ephesians 6, and say: We may believe really strongly in those plans, and we’ll have to see how things work out! When we have faith in God, we believe he’ll be who he says he is and he’ll do what he says he’ll do. Then we can fight evil with faith. Let’s find out about a guy in the Bible named Noah who had major faith in God. The Bible can help our faith grow, so let’s dive in! We can also grow in our faith by talking with God. Let’s start with that.

Pray, thanking God for his victory over evil with faith.



TALK-ABOUT VIDEO [10 min]

Noah's Ark

Supplies

- “Noah’s Ark” teaching video (watch or download [here](#))

Tip

- Don’t have internet in your classroom? That’s okay! You can download the videos before class using the “download” button at the link provided, or just purchase this quarter’s DVD [here](#).

Discuss and Watch “Noah’s Ark”

Say: We’re learning that we fight evil with faith. Noah had to have faith that what God said would happen *would* really happen. Let’s see what happened to Noah.

Watch “Noah’s Ark.”

Ask:

- Which joke was the best joke in this video?

- Since animals can’t *really* tell jokes, what do you think Noah did to stay entertained while he was on the ark?

- Would you want to go on a boat ride for that long? Why or why not? Which animals would you want with you?

Say: Noah had to have faith in God. He had to trust God that it really would flood. He had to build an ark just like God said to. He had to trust God to gather all the animals for the ark! And he had to have faith that the scary animals wouldn’t hurt him. We fight evil with faith when we believe God will do what he says.



CORE BIBLE DISCOVERY [20 min]

The Armor of God: Shield of Faith (Ephesians 6:10-12, 16; Genesis 6–9; Hebrews 11:7)

Supplies

- Bible
- scissors
- tape
- paper

Build a Boat

Say: Today we're learning about faith, which is kind of like another word for trust. And I have a weird feeling something that's *never* happened in our class is going to happen today. Do you trust me? Pause.

Say: Here's what I think is going to happen. I think it's going to flood right here in our classroom! And I think it's our job to save a bunch of animals! So what we need to do is build a boat. Then we'll call the animals, and I feel like they're going to come just before it starts raining. Do you still trust me? Pause.

Have kids work together to use paper to make a boat. They can tape the pieces together in a boat shape that's big enough for all the kids to get in. As kids work, keep playing up your gut feeling that the classroom is going to flood.

Call the Animals

Say: Thank you for building that boat! I feel so much better now. And my gut feeling is getting stronger and stronger...the flood's going to start any minute! Let's call for the animals.

Have kids do animal calls as you watch the door expectantly, waiting for the animals to come. After kids have made animal calls for a little bit, look out the door and glance both ways down the hallway.

Say: I'm not sure what's going on. I don't see any animals coming. But I'm still *sure* it's going to flood in our classroom, even though that's never happened before. We'd better not waste any more time waiting for the animals. Let's just get in the boat!

Have kids get in the boat. Stand with them, and keep playing it up that it's about to rain. You might even do a 10-second countdown as if it's going to rain at the end of the countdown and then repeat the countdown a few more times.

After a couple of minutes, say: I don't know. I guess my gut feeling was wrong. Here I made you do all this work to build the boat and call the animals because I was *sure* there would be a flood...and it didn't happen. Have kids get out of the boat and sit in a circle.

Talk About It

Ask: • Describe your attitude while you were following my directions. Did you believe me? Why did you cooperate?

Say: In the Bible, God told a man named Noah that it was going to flood. Here's what he said.

Read Genesis 6:11-14.

Say: God went on to describe more details about building the boat (which was called the "ark") and about gathering the animals.

Ask: • Tell about a time you experienced a lot of rain or even a flood. Share your own story first. Depending on your geographical area, you could also discuss other major weather phenomena like blizzards, hurricanes, or tornadoes.

Say: If you heard on the news that severe weather was coming, it probably wouldn't be that hard to believe. It's happened before. But listen to this.

Read Hebrews 11:7.

Ask: • Why do you think Noah believed God even though what God said would happen had never happened before?

Say: Earlier I told you our room was going to flood, even though that's never happened before. And I was wrong.

Ask: • How do you think Noah would've felt if he built the boat and the flood never happened?

• How do you think other people would've treated Noah?

Say: The world around Noah was full of evil people. Maybe some of them questioned his belief in God; we don't know. But we do know that Noah had faith, and we fight evil with faith.

And unlike my prediction of a flood, what God said would happen really happened.

Read Genesis 7:6-10.

Say: Noah and his family were on the ark with the animals for a *long* time. It rained for 40 days and 40 nights, and then they had to wait a lot longer for the waters to go back down. It's a good thing Noah had faith and believed what God said would happen. His faith saved him and his family!

Make It Personal

Say: We fight evil with faith. *Faith* means believing that God is who he says he is and he'll do what he says he'll do.

Maybe there are people who are trying to tear down your faith and make you doubt God. Or maybe you just have some doubts in your mind. That's because we're in a battle.

Read Ephesians 6:10-12.

Ask: • Share some doubts you have or some things you *do* believe about God that other people make fun of you for. Share your own examples first.

Say: Our battle is not against flesh and blood; it's against unseen powers that want us to lose our faith. But don't worry, we have awesome armor to defend our faith against the doubts that creep in!

Read Ephesians 6:16.

Have each child hold up a hand in a "stop" gesture.

Say: Holding up your hand like that looks like you've got a shield. But it *also* means "stop." When doubts fill your mind or when other people make fun of you for having faith, hold up your shield to say "Stop!" Remember, [we fight evil with faith.](#)



MUSIC VIDEO [10 min] Stand Strong

Supplies

- "Stand Strong" (watch or download [here](#))
- "There's Power in the Blood" (watch or download [here](#))
- "All Authority" (Romans 13:1) (watch or download [here](#))

Tip

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Sing Songs to God

Sing the three songs in any order.



LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP [5 min] Shield and Shout

Commit to Faith

Say: Let's commit to fighting evil with faith! I'll name some things that the enemy could do to try to hurt our faith, and you'll respond to each one with our point: [We fight evil with faith.](#) As you respond, hold out your hand like a shield.

Read the following sentences, having kids respond after each one.

- When people try to tear down our faith...
- When people tell us God isn't real...
- When people say Christians are stupid...
- When we can't understand God...
- When difficult times come...
- When we can't see God at work...
- No matter what happens...

Pray: God, we're committed to trusting you and holding on to our shields of faith. In Jesus' name, amen.

Thank kids for coming, and encourage them to come back next week.

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