

Alley SG—July 17th-19th, 2021

Today's Bible Story: Stand and Deliver (Armor of God) • Ephesians 6:10-17

Today's Key Question: When is it hard to stand strong?

Today's Bottom Line: Use what God has given you to stand strong.

Monthly Memory Verse: *Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.* Philippians 1:6 (NIV)

1. Just for Fun

What You Need: Heavy white cardstock (1 per student), Markers

What You Do:

- Ask kids to sit in a large circle with several feet of distance between them.
- Give each kid a piece of cardstock and some markers.
- Ask everyone to print their name on the paper and turn it over so their name is hidden.
- Invite kids to think of the title of one of their favorite songs but instruct them not to say what it is.
- Challenge kids to create an album cover for the song they chose but without including the title or any other words.
- Signal the kids when you see that they have a good start on their album cover.
- Allow kids to switch papers with someone in the group then, without speaking, continue on with the original drawing in whatever way they choose.
- Continue to play, pause, and switch artwork until kids have drawn something on each paper.
- Instruct them to return the clipboard to the kid whose name is on the back of the page.
- Invite kids to take turns showing the finished album covers and sharing the name of the song it illustrates.

2. Helmet, Shield, Sword (Rock, Paper, Scissors Variation)

What You Need: No Supplies Needed

What You Do:

- Pair Kids Up
- Demonstrate each pose for the game
 - Helmet-Hands on Head
 - Belt-Arm Bent in Front of Body like holding a Shield
 - Sword-Make a motion like taking a Sword out and holding it high.
- Play the Rock, Paper, Scissors variation as follows.
 - Shield beats Sword
 - Sword beats Helmet
 - Helmet beats Shield
- Kids will turn with their backs to their opponents, and you will shout out “Helmet, Shield, Sword. FIGHT!” and the kids will spin around and hold their pose. Whoever wins gets a point.
- Play best of 3, 5, or 7 Series as time allows or have kids switch opponents each time.

3. Discussion Questions

Ask:

- What part of the armor of God do you think is most helpful?
- How does the armor of God give you confidence?
- As you get dressed this week, how can you remind yourself to “put on your armor”?

4. Verses to Take with You

What You Need: Bibles

What You Do:

- Invite kids to look up and read Philippians 4:13 together.
- Ask:
 - How would you finish the following sentences?
 - This verse means I can . . .
 - This verse does not mean I can . . .
 - What's the difference between being confident and being proud?
 - How does learning to see ourselves as God sees us give us confidence?
- Remind kids that seeing ourselves as God sees us means that we recognize our need for Him and invite Him into our life.
- Memorize Philippians 4:13 by saying it together several times.

5. Make it Personal with Prayer

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Lead kids through a prayer that focuses on each aspect of the armor of God.
- Pause after each section and invite kids to interject a sentence prayer of their own or to pray silently.

“Dear God, thank You for giving us what we need to confidently live for You. Thank you that we never fight alone—You are always with us.

Help us put on the *BELT OF TRUTH* and follow what You say is right and good.

Help us put on the *CHEST ARMOR OF GODLINESS* to protect our hearts from loving ourselves more than You and others.

Help us put the *GOSPEL OF PEACE* on our feet, so we're ready to take the message of Your love wherever we go this week.

Help us take up the *SHIELD OF FAITH* and choose to trust in You no matter what.

Help us put on the *HELMET OF SALVATION* and remind us that Jesus came to rescue and save us. Guard our minds and our thoughts from doubts, fear, and pride.

Help us take up the *SWORD OF THE SPIRIT* by trusting Your promises and obeying your commands.

Remind us every day as we get dressed to put on the invisible armor You've given us so that we have all we need to stand strong. In the powerful name of Jesus, Amen.”