

God is Protector

(3 weeks)



Outcomes

At the completion of this module students will understand:

- That we can ask God for help whenever we feel afraid or unsafe
- We should ask God to protect us from danger
- That many servants of God in the Bible and in history have experienced God's protection in dangerous circumstances
- That when we keep God's word in our hearts and listen to what the Bible says, then our minds are protected against wrong thoughts
- That protection comes from obedience to God

Related topics for Science, Social Studies and Health:

Weather and climate; shelter from storms and weather conditions

Link between "God is Protector" and the topics:

There are many references in the Psalms to God being our shelter, e.g. Psalm 18:2 and Psalm 91. God shelters us from the storms of life when we put our trust in Him.

Values:

Responsibility; security; peace; faith; trust in God

God is Protector

Week 1

God gives us armour

Bible references

Ephesians 6:10-18 The armour of God

Introduction

Explain that in the land where Jesus lived, the people were under the rule of Roman soldiers. Look at a picture of Roman soldier or a knight wearing armour. How many separate pieces of armour are there? (If you don't have a picture you can prepare the soldier on the activity sheet on the next page as a demonstration model.)

Bible research

God has told us that we should put on armour too because Christians fight against an enemy. The enemy's name is Satan. He does not attack us with real swords or arrows, but he does try to give us bad thoughts. He tries to make us do the wrong thing. That is how he fights Christians.

So that we will be strong when Satan comes to us with bad thoughts, God tell us to wear armour. It is not made of metal like knights' armour. You cannot see this special armour. God gives it to us when we ask for it. Here is the armour:

Look up Ephesians 6:10-18 in your Bible. Make a list of the armour and think about how you can have each piece of armour for yourself.

1. The belt of truth
2. The breastplate of righteousness (also called the protection of right living)
3. Shoes for announcing the Good News of peace
4. The shield of faith
5. The Helmet of Salvation
6. The sword of the Spirit

Why do we need to PUT ON God's armour? (Verse 11)

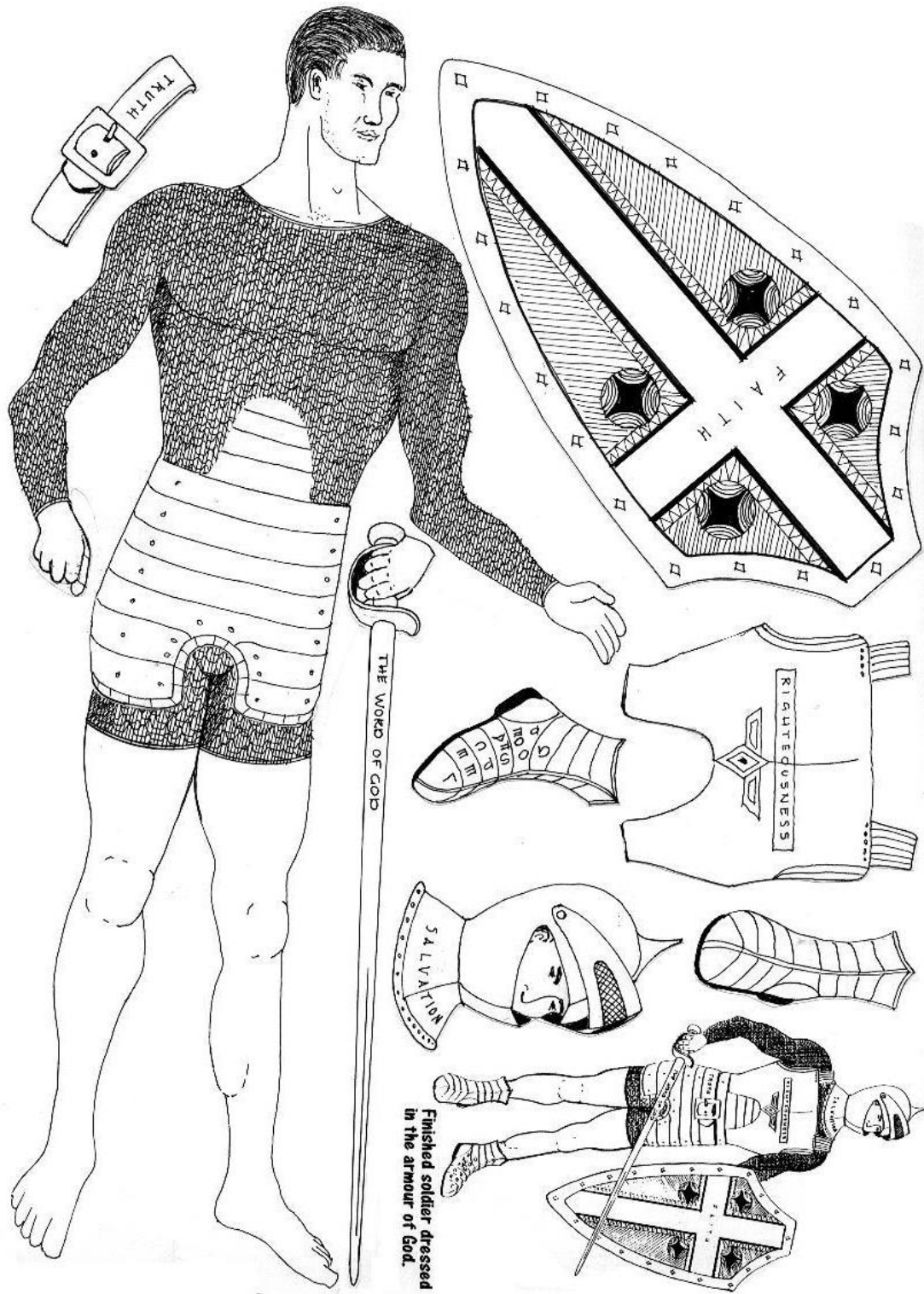
How do we do it?

Why do God's people need to keep on the alert? (verse 18)

What else should we do in addition to putting on the armour? (verse 18)

Art/Craft

Use the following activity sheet to make a figure wearing the armour of God.
Or draw a soldier wearing the armour.



God is Protector

Week 2

Protection from wrong thoughts

The helmet of salvation is an important piece of armour for protecting us against wrong thoughts; we need to use our armour every day.

Bible references

Ephesians 6:10-18 The armour of God.

Philippians 4:8 Fill your minds with those things that are good and that deserve praise: things that are true, noble, right, pure, lovely and honourable. (GNB)

Introduction

Last week we learned about the pieces in the armour of God, and how they protect us as we walk with God in the Christian life. Let's think again about the Helmet of Salvation.

What part of the body does a helmet protect?

Why would a Christian need protection for their head?

We use our head for thinking.

Even Christians can have bad thoughts coming into their heads...thoughts like wanting to tell a lie, to say something unkind about another person, to be lazy and not to do the thing we should do...

What should we do when one of these thoughts comes into our head?

Story: Pilgrim's Armour

This is an imaginary story that teaches us about some ideas that we find in the Bible.

Long ago in the City of Destruction lived a man called Pilgrim. Pilgrim was not happy in the city of Destruction. People were always fighting.

One day a man called Evangelist came along. He told the people in the city that they could live much happier lives if only they would follow the path to the Celestial City.

"How can I ever be happy when I have this big burden on my back?" asked Pilgrim. "How do I get rid of it?" (A burden is something heavy. It's like a big weight on your back. It's always there. You just can't get rid of it. It makes you feel very unhappy.)

"See that light in the distance?" said Evangelist. Follow the path and you will come to a gate. The gate is called the Gate of Decision. When you arrive at the gate you will see an old wooden cross. You must kneel at the cross and ask Jesus to forgive you for all the wrong things you did in the City of Destruction.

Pilgrim followed the path, and there, as Evangelist had said, was the wooden cross. When Pilgrim asked for forgiveness, immediately his burden fell from his back and rolled down the hill.

Pilgrim went through the gate and followed the path to the Palace Beautiful. He knocked on the door, and the door was opened by a princess.

"I am the princess of the King," she said. "Come in and I will give you the armour that you need for your journey to the Celestial City. You will need a helmet, a breastplate, a sword, a shield, a belt and some special shoes. All these will help to protect you as you fight against the wicked prince and his followers."

Pilgrim continued his journey, and it wasn't long before he met one of the followers of the wicked prince. The first one he met was Apollyan.

"Draw your sword, Pilgrim. Get ready to fight. Surely you don't think you can travel on this path! That bright shiny armour will not protect you against ME!"

Pilgrim won the fight, but the battle left him feeling tired. He was almost ready to give up when along came someone else who was travelling to the Celestial City. His name was Hopeful.

"Do not give up," said Hopeful. "I will walk with you to the Celestial City." So the two friends travelled together.

The path was getting a bit stony so the two decided to jump the fence and walk in the nice green meadow on the other side. They didn't know that the meadow belonged to Giant Despair.

"What are you doing in my meadow!" thundered Giant Despair. "I put pilgrims like you in my dungeon!"

The giant grabbed the pilgrims and threw them in the dungeon. There they lay for days. It seemed that they would be there forever. Then one day, Pilgrim remembered something. The princess had given him a key. On the key was some tiny writing which said, 'Trust in God'. Pilgrim remembered that God was stronger than any enemy. He tried the key, and to his surprise, it fitted the lock. The door creaked as the two pilgrims crept out of the dungeon.

"Hurry!" said Hopeful, "before Giant Despair hears us!"

The two pilgrims were safely on the path again now, and soon they saw the Celestial City in the distance. As they got closer they could hear singing. They came to a river and they saw an angel waiting on the other side.

"Before you can enter the Celestial City," said the angel, "you must cross the river. Do not worry about the waves. Just keep your eyes on the Celestial City."

Pilgrim and Hopeful crossed the river safely. Then they were called, one by one, to enter the city. There, more angels welcomed them. Pilgrim and hopeful no longer needed their armour,

because in the Celestial City there were no enemies. There was no sadness, no wickedness and no despair. Everyone was happy, worshipping the King.

Adapted from 'Pilgrim's Progress' by John Bunyan, 1678

Discussion

What was the job of Evangelist?

What happened at the Gate of Decision?

What did Pilgrim receive at the Palace Beautiful?

What did Apollyan want to do?

What did Giant Despair want to do?

Whose servants were Apollyan and Giant Despair?

Where were Pilgrim and his friend Hopeful travelling to?

In real life, what can happen to Christians to make them want to go away from God?

What should Christians do when they feel that they are having a hard time?

Word Search

Find this Bible verse:

PUT ON: THE WHOLE: ARMOUR: OF GOD. (Eph 6:11)

D	R	W	I	J	A	N	B
P	J	G	F	E	R	L	J
U	J	G	F	L	M	I	Y
T	H	E	W	H	O	L	E
O	F	G	O	D	U	D	P
N	G	F	D	S	R	N	J

God is Protector

Week 3

God is our shield

Bible references

1 Samuel 18-19 God protected David against Saul.

Proverbs 18:10; Psalm 18:2 God is a strong tower; a fortress.

Proverbs 30:5 God is our shield.

Psalm 18:30-36; Psalm 61:3 God is our protector.

Psalm 66:3 God is great.

Introduction

Think about the purpose of a shield. A shield is something that stands between you and danger. It stops the dangerous thing from harming you. We can ask God to be our shield. He will protect us from danger.

This true story tells us about the time when God protected one of His servants from danger. The servant's name was David, the shepherd boy who had killed Goliath.

Bible lesson: God protects David again

David had killed the Philistine giant, Goliath. After that, King Saul became extremely jealous of David because everyone thought David was so great. King Saul thought that the people might want David for their king instead of himself. The thought of this made him so angry that an evil spirit came into his heart.

David played music to Saul, to make him feel better, but as he was playing one day, King Saul took his spear and threw it at David. David dodged quickly and the spear missed him.

David wanted to marry King Saul's daughter, Michal. King Saul told David that he could have Michal as his wife if he won another battle against the Philistines. King Saul secretly hoped that David would be killed in the battle. But David was not killed. Saul had to give his daughter, Michal, to be David's wife.

Another time, King Saul tried to kill David with his spear, but he missed again. Saul said to his servants, "Bring David to me."

"He can't come," said Michal. "He's sick in bed."

"Bring him anyway," said Saul.

Michal played a trick on her father. She placed a stone statue on a stretcher bed and covered it with blankets. The servants took the bed to King Saul. In the meantime, David had run away. The king could not find him. God always protected David because David loved and obeyed God.

Bible research

Look up some of verse from Psalms and Proverbs which tell us about God's protection. (See Bible references.) Here are some words that the Bible uses to explain what God's protection is like.

Word Search 1

STRONG TOWER; SHIELD; REFUGE; FORTRESS; DEFENCE

C	F	J	K	M	O	P	S	Z	D	H	S
R	X	W	A	Y	L	T	F	T	E	M	H
E	F	R	N	B	D	W	R	G	F	J	I
F	O	R	T	R	E	S	S	U	E	G	E
U	K	S	W	I	X	N	T	V	N	J	L
G	P	A	H	R	I	K	B	M	C	L	D
E	Q	Z	Y	L	Y	D	M	P	E	E	F
O	S	T	R	O	N	G	T	O	W	E	R

Art/Craft

Make a shield of faith.