

# Year 6

## God is Protector 3 Weeks



### Outcomes

At the completion of this module students will understand:

- Biblical examples of where God protected his servants
- That God always works for our good, even when bad things happen
- God gives His children protection against Satan: the armour of God
- That God gives angels to protect us

### Related classroom topics for Science, Social Studies and Health:

Our special planet; equator, temperate zones and the poles

### Link between “God is Protector” and classroom topics:

God has provided protection for our special planet through the earth’s atmosphere, its position in space and its distance from the sun. Our planet is the only planet in the universe created for life, and exists through God’s protection alone.

### Values:

responsibility; security; peace; faith; care for self; self-control

### Biography:

Douglas Mawson

# God is Protector

## Week 1

### God protected Paul

#### Introduction

Paul was one of the apostles who took the Gospel to other nations, just as Jesus had directed. He was a good sailor and often went to places by ship. Paul was often in situations where he was probably very scared. (Review “Trouble at Ephesus” in the last lesson.) Even when he was afraid, Paul knew that God would take care of him.

#### Bible reference

Acts chapters 27 & 28

#### Shipwreck and snakebite

The Jewish people who did not believe in Jesus did not like Paul. Some of them told lies about Paul and said that he should be put in prison. Even though no one could prove that he had done anything wrong, he had to stay in prison a long time. Finally, Paul said he wanted to go to the city of Rome in Italy and tell his story to Caesar, the ruler of the Roman Empire. Paul thought that Caesar would listen to his story and let him go free.

Rome was a long way from the city of Caesarea where Paul had been kept prisoner. Paul had to sail in a ship. A special Roman guard named Julius had to stay with Paul at all times. Julius was very nice to Paul and when the ship would stop at ports, he would let Paul visit friends.

Bad storms made the trip very hard. Paul told the captain and the owner of the ship that it was very dangerous and that they should wait until the winter was over before they continued the voyage. The captain and the owner did not listen to Paul. They probably thought that Paul didn't know anything because he was just a prisoner.

Soon everyone wished they had listened to Paul because the storms grew even worse. The captain tried to dock the ship at an island called Crete but the wind was too hard and blew the ship out to sea again. The sailors on the ship were so afraid that the ship would fall apart that they tied ropes around it to hold it together. The storm kept blowing day after day. It was so bad that Paul and the rest of the people on the ship could not even see the sun during the day or the stars at night. It seemed like the ship was going to sink so they threw everything on the ship into the sea. They even had to throw out most of their food. Of course, everyone on the ship was scared and hungry.

Some time later, Paul stood up and said to everyone on the ship, “You should have listened to me before. Be sure and listen this time because I have good news. An angel came to me last night and gave me a special message from God. The angel said that none of us will die. The ship will crash on an island but none of us will die. I know now that God will take care of us. Everyone should cheer up because what the angel said is true.” This must have seemed impossible to the people on the ship.

Finally, after two weeks, the ship got close to an island. It was the island of Malta. Paul told everyone not to worry. He told them to eat so that they would all feel better. The captain tried to sail the ship to the beach but the ship crashed on some rocks. Everyone who could swim jumped into the water. Some of the people could not swim so they floated on boards and paddled to shore. The soldiers guarding the prisoners wanted to kill them to stop them escaping. Julius wanted to protect Paul from the soldiers so he gave orders that none of the prisoners should be killed.

Remember how Paul had told the captain that the ship would crash but that no one would die? It happened just the way the angel told Paul it would happen. There were 276 people on the ship and not one of them drowned!

It was raining and very cold but the people of Malta began making a fire for the people from the ship. Paul wanted to help so he began collecting sticks to put on the fire. Once, when he bent down to put one of the sticks on the fire, a poisonous snake jumped out and bit him. Paul just shook the snake off and threw it into the fire. The island people could not believe what they saw! Anyone else who was bitten by a poisonous snake would die. Paul did not die! They thought he must be some kind of god.

Since the ship had wrecked, all of the passengers had to find places to stay until another ship could come. Paul went to the house of Publius who was an important man on the island. Publius's father was very sick but Paul prayed for him and the man's sickness went away. The islanders thought Paul was wonderful. All the sick people on the island wanted to visit Paul so he could make them well. Paul and Julius stayed on the island three months until another ship came.

**Review Questions:**

Why did Paul sail to Rome? *(To go to a trial with Caesar as the judge)*

What happened to the ship Paul was on? *(It crashed on the rocks near an island.)*

How many people died on the ship? *(Not one person!)*

When Paul was gathering firewood on the island, what happened to him? *(A poisonous snake bit him but he did not die.)*

What miracle did God do for Publius?

What effect did this demonstration of God's power have?

# God is Protector

## Week 2

### The armour of God

#### **Bible reference:**

Ephesians 6:11-17

#### **Introduction**

What is armour? Armour is a special kind of suit worn for protection. Soldiers, (and policemen in some countries), wear bullet-proof vests. Cricket players wear a helmet and pads on their legs. Motor cyclists wear a safety helmet. Astronauts wear a special suit. All of these types of protective gear are examples of armour.

During the time the New Testament was written, Roman soldiers wore armour to protect themselves in battle. In Ephesians 6 we read about the armour of God. This is special protection for Christians against the enemy, Satan.

#### **Why do we need armour?**

The Devil is God's enemy, and ours! Satan has a whole army of demons, and they are always active in fighting against God and God's children. Satan is not as powerful as God, but he is a strong enemy. He is more powerful than you and I. The only way we can defeat him is to fight God's way. We are soldiers in God's army - an army that is fighting against Satan and his army. We can protect ourselves against Satan and his army by doing exactly what our Commander-in-Chief, God, tells us to do. And God provides a 'suit of armour', to wonderfully protect us.

Ephesians 6:13 tells us to "put on God's armour now!" God promises us that if we put on His armour, the special protection provided for us, we will be able to resist the enemy's attacks. When Satan attacks us with temptations, we will not give in and sin. We will be able to stand and not fall before the enemy.

#### **The pieces of the armour:**

##### **The strong belt of truth**

The Roman soldier wore a strong, wide piece of armour around the middle of his body like a belt. It not only protected his vital organs, but it held all the other pieces of armour together. With his belt on, the soldier could move around with confidence, knowing his other pieces would not slip out of place.

As Christians, we are to put on the 'belt of truth.' How can we do that? There are two ways. First, we put on the belt of truth by learning as much as we can about the Bible - at church, at Sunday School, at school RE lessons, and with your family during personal devotions.

Another way to put on the belt of truth is to be sure that you are always truthful in everything you do. The Lord Jesus called Satan the 'father of lies' (John 8:44). Satan is happy

when you tell even a small lie. Jesus said, "I am the truth" (John 14:6). Jesus is your protection against Satan's temptations to lie. Ask Jesus to help you tell the truth (Psalm 19:14). If we start telling lies then the devil can overcome us. Tell the truth, even if it means owning up to something we have done wrong.

### **The breastplate of righteousness (God's approval)**

In human armour, a breastplate covered the soldier's body from his neck to his waist in the front and back. It was made of metal plates or chains so that no sword or arrow could go through it. What is the most important part of your body that the breastplate covers?... your heart. As Christians, you and I need protection for our heart, and that protection comes from our righteousness. Our righteousness comes from Jesus, because He has taken the "punishment for everything we have done wrong. Now He asks us to live our lives as 'rightly' as we know how by choosing to tell the truth instead of lying; choosing to be kind instead of hateful; choosing to obey instead of disobeying. God gives us power to choose right and do it. That's righteous living. By choosing right instead of wrong, you will be protecting your heart with the breastplate of righteousness. To keep our heart clean we should only like the things God likes, and only do the things that God wants us to do.

### **Ready Shoes!**

The shoes in the armour of God stand for readiness to announce the Good News of peace. Roman soldiers wore heavy protective footgear. Their sandals had hobnails (sprigs like in soccer or rugby boots) in the soles. Their shoes made them sure-footed and stable in the battle with the enemy. God says our feet should be covered with the gospel of peace. We strap on the shoes of peace when we gain peace with God by accepting God's gift of salvation (Romans 5:1), and begin to live in a way that is pleasing to God. Then, as we walk through each day, our lives can show the good news of God's peace. We can have peace with others, being kind to them, forgiving them (Eph. 4:29), and sharing God's love with those who do not know the Lord Jesus. Always be ready to share your faith with others, and encourage others to love and obey our Lord Jesus Christ.

### **Shield of Faith**

In every battle you will need faith as your shield to stop the fiery arrows aimed at you by Satan. The Roman soldier's armour included a large shield made of wood. It was about 75 cm wide by 120 cm high (two and a half feet by four feet), so it offered double protection for almost every part of the soldier's body.

To get to him, the enemy's arrows had to get past the shield first and then pierce through the armour that was worn on the soldier's body. The sides of the shield were made to hook together with the shields of other soldiers so that an army could use them to form a wall of protection. Knowing the soldier's shields were made of wood, the enemy often set their arrows on fire before they shot them.

Roman soldiers covered their wooden shields with cloth and tough leather then soaked them in water so that when a flaming arrow landed on the wet shield, the fire would immediately go out.

Satan, our enemy, shoots burning arrows at us too. Some of these arrows are lies, hateful thoughts about people, or the desire to sin. We don't know when Satan will shoot one of his arrows. He is like a sniper who shoots when we least expect it. We must always have our shield of faith in hand and be ready to use it. Satan wants you and me to doubt God, and God's promises, his faithfulness, his goodness and his power. We need to surround ourselves with Christian friends so that when we are tempted to give up our faith, we can 'hook on' to their shields and let them encourage us. Hold your shield of faith high by trusting the truths you know about God. Even when things seem to be going wrong, believe that God is always present, an all-powerful loving Father, working in your life for good.

Faith is acting on what you believe even when you have doubts. Faith is believing that God is who he says he is, and loves us as he says he loves us, and will do what he says he will do for us.

### **Salvation as a Helmet**

Who would wear a helmet today? (*football players in some countries, skateboarders, bicycle and motorbike riders, soldiers and workmen.*) They all wear helmets for one reason - to protect their heads. If your head gets hit, your brain gets hurt and you lose the battle!

Satan wants to attack the mind of the Christian. We need to let God control our mind so Satan can't lead us astray. That means we have to be careful what enters our mind (Phil 4:18). We have to be careful what we think about, what we read, watch on TV (violence, crime, comedy that encourages us to laugh at others unkindly, programmes that make us think impure thoughts). We also have to be careful about what we listen to in music. The things our eyes see and our ears hear will be the things we think about. You put on the helmet when you believe the Lord's promise of salvation and confidently expect Jesus to help you.

### **The Sword which the Spirit gives you**

*...and the word of God as the sword which the Spirit gives you.*

With our armour on, we are ready to pick up our swords and go into battle. Our sword isn't made out of sharp steel, because we are not fighting against flesh and blood. We're fighting a spiritual battle, one that can only be won in God's power. Our Sword is the Word of God. That means we should be learning verses from God's Word so the Holy Spirit can bring them back to our memory when we are tempted to do wrong. (Remember this is what Jesus did when He was tempted by Satan? He used the Word of God.) Each verse that you put into practice is a powerful weapon that God can use to attack Satan and put him on the run.

# God is Protector

## Week 3

### Psalm 91

#### Introduction

Can anyone share about a time that God protected them in a fearful situation? (Share with the children a personal story in which God protected you in a fearful situation.) God doesn't protect just adults; He protects children too.

What are some things students of your age worry about?

When might we need to depend on God's help and protection? (When we are in danger; when we are uncertain about the future; when others say bad things about us or hurt us).

God has promised to protect us. This does not mean that you will never get hurt, but it does mean that God is always able to care for you. Sometimes God allows things to happen to us that we think are bad, but God uses them for our good.

#### Prayer

Father, You are our Great Protector. Help us to really know that we don't have to worry or fret about things that happen to us in life. Help us to always remember that You are always there for us, even in the scariest times. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

#### Memory Verse

Don't be afraid, for I am with you. Don't be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will hold you up with my victorious right hand. (Isaiah 41:10)

#### Psalm 91:1

*Those who live in the shelter of the Most High will find rest in the shadow of the Almighty.*

What is the meaning of living in the "shadow" of God? The Bible tells us that God is spirit. He obviously does not cast a shadow, like a shade tree, which gives shade from the blazing hot sun. This verse is a word picture to describe how we can find spiritual rest by being "in Christ."

You are "in Christ" if you believe that Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead so that your sin can be forgiven. When you do that, God says you are clean and pure in His sight because He sees you as "in Christ."

God no longer see you as guilty before Him. He only sees Jesus' righteousness because you are "in Christ" (2 Corinthians 5:17; Hebrews 13:5-6). He is our place of shelter and safety from the wrath of God against sin.

#### Psalm 91:2

*This I declare about the Lord: He alone is my refuge, my place of safety; he is my God, and I trust him.*

In Bible times, people hid from danger in caves. God is our hiding place, our place of shelter. If you are “in Christ” then God will protect you from eternal death. Being “in Christ” is our place of safety.

**Psalm 91:3**

*For he will rescue you from every trap and protect you from deadly disease.*

Satan often tries to destroy God’s people. Satan tries to trap us with temptation to sin. Maybe he tempts you to steal something that he says you must have, that you deserve. He might persuade you to do or say a hurtful thing as payback for a hurt done to you. Following Satan (or sinning) really hurts you as well.

**1 Peter 5:8**

*Stay Alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil, He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour.*

Satan is the great destroyer. But God is able to protect you in every situation no matter what Satan may try to do. You may face some scary situation, perhaps when you are home alone or when you have to be some place in the dark. At those times you should remind yourself that God is always able to protect you.

However, when bad things happen, remember that God still has everything under control. Even though we can’t always understand why hard times come into our lives, God can use it for good.

**Psalm 18:2**

*The Lord is my rock, my fortress, and my saviour; my God is my rock, in whom I find protection. He is my shield, the power that saves me, and my place of safety.*

This is another word picture to explain that God is our great protector.

**Psalm 91:4**

*He will cover you with his feathers. He will shelter you with his wings.*

His faithful promises are your armour and protection. Now obviously God does not have feathers! But if you are “in Christ” you are as safe as a little chick that hides under the wings of its mother. This verse also assures you that you will be just as safe as a soldier wearing armour and standing behind a big strong metal shield because God always keeps His promises.

**Psalm 91:5-6**

*Do not be afraid of the terrors of the night, nor the arrow that flies in the day. Do not dread the disease that stalks in darkness, nor the disaster that strikes at midday.*

God is protecting you night and day, even if we have “night terrors” or nightmares. You can have peace in these dreadful situations; remember that God is with you and powerful enough to do anything.



**Psalm 91:11-12**

*For he will order his angels to protect you wherever you go. They will hold you up with their hands so you won't even hurt your foot on a stone.*

God sends His angels to protect you wherever you go. Did you know that children have guardian angels?

**Matthew 18:10**

*Beware that you don't look down on any of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels are always in the presence of my heavenly Father.*

God assured the children of Israel that He would protect them as they made their journey to the Promised Land.

**Exodus 23:20**

*"See, I am sending an Angel before you to protect you on your journey and lead you safely to the place I have prepared for you."*

Angels are servants of God sent to take care of us.

**Daniel 6:22**

While Daniel was in the den of lions, God sent His angel to shut the mouths of the lions so they would not hurt him.

*"My God sent his angel to shut the mouths of the lions so that they would not hurt me, for I have been found innocent in his sight. And I have not wronged you, Your Majesty."*

God can keep you safe from dangerous things like mean dogs and spiders and snakes, too.

**Psalm 91:13**

*You will trample upon lions and cobras; you will crush fierce lions and serpents under your feet!*

This verse promises that God can protect you from a lion or a snake. These animals are word pictures to help you understand that God will protect you from the strongest, meanest, and most frightening of situations. Of course, you need to be wise and not foolishly put yourself into dangerous situations to see if God will protect you.

God adds His promise that He is able to deliver those who love Him.

**Psalm 91:14**

*The Lord says, "I will rescue those who love me. I will protect those who trust in my name.*

God knows that the greatest need we all have is to be saved from the judgment of our sins (Romans 6:23). If you call on God and ask Him to forgive you, He will save you.

**Psalm 91:15-16**

*When they call on me, I will answer; I will be with them in trouble. I will rescue and honour them. I will reward them with a long life and give them my salvation.*

God promises to help you when you call on Him in times of trouble. However at times God, in His wisdom, may allow things that seem bad to happen. He promises to use even these situations for your good (Romans 8:28). Whatever happens, God is able to protect you.

When you are afraid, remember that you belong to God and that He is the strongest of all (Romans 8:38-39). No matter what comes into your life, even dangerous or frightening things, you can trust God to do what's best for you.

**Psalm 91: Questions for revision and discussion:**

1. Think of some times when students of your age might need to depend on God's help and protection? *(when they are in danger; when they are uncertain about the future; when others might tease them for doing something they believe in.)*
2. What is a word picture? *(A way of describing something in an understandable way)*
3. What does it mean to find shelter or rest in the shadow of the Almighty? *(We can find spiritual rest by being "in Christ.")*
4. What does it mean to be "in Christ"? *(When you believe that Jesus died on the cross, God no longer sees us as guilty before Him. He only sees Jesus' righteousness.)*
5. What does verse 2 say our hiding place is? Why? *(God is our hiding place; He will protect us from eternal death.)*
6. What kind of trap does Satan try to catch you in? *(Sin of all sorts: lying, slandering, jealousy, coveting, etc.)*
7. Why can we still have peace in the midst of dreadful situations? *(We know that God is with us and is powerful enough to do anything.)*
8. What does it mean when the Psalm talks about covering us with his wings? *(God will keep you just as safe as a baby chick is under its mother's wings.)*
9. What did God send to protect Daniel when he was in the den of lions? *(An angel)*
10. What are angels? *(Servants of God; spirits sent to care for people.)*
11. What is your greatest need? *(To be saved from the judgment of our sins.)*
12. How can you be saved? *(Trust in what Jesus did for you on the cross.)*
13. Does God always keep you from experiencing bad things? *(No, in His wisdom, He may allow things that seem bad to happen. But, He promises to use even these situations for your good.)*

Acknowledgement: <http://www.calvarymv.com/childrensresources/>