

# Shelter

## God is a Powerful Protector

### **Spiritual Awareness: God is our shelter**

*For in the day of trouble He will keep me safe in His dwelling; He will hide me in the shelter of His tabernacle and set me high upon a rock. Psalm 27:5*

A house is a shelter from wind and rain, from heat and cold. It provides protection from the elements. God is our shelter. He is our Heavenly Father who protects us against the storms of life. God's shelter is invisible. That is, the invisible shelter of His love and care.

Shelters can also provide protection from physical danger. The castle of the Middle Ages, was a refuge in times of attack. Forts and fortresses are also refuges. A refuge is a place where we can go when we are in trouble. God promises to be our refuge and strength. We can trust in God's amazing power and strength. God is stronger than any fortress. He can protect us from danger and evil. He provides us with weapons to fight evil. These weapons are found in the armour of God.

God is able to protect us because of His strength. He is not only great, strong and mighty, but also faithful in His care for us. The Psalms tell us that God is a rock. He is a refuge and our strength, and an ever-present help in the time of trouble. This picture of strength is linked with His omnipotence. He is Lord and King, the only true God, great and mighty and one in whom we can trust.

### **Our response to 'God is a Powerful Protector'**

- Because God is a Powerful Protector I will...
- trust God
- have faith
- have peace
- not be afraid because He is with me
- give my worries to God
- do what God asks me to do
- believe that God will do as He says
- put on the armour of God to protect me against the enemy

### **Supporting devotional resource**

*Themes for Christian Studies 1, (Peace): God keeps me safe*

*Themes for Christian Studies 3, (Peace): Peace comes from trusting God.*

*Themes for Christian Studies 3, (Protector): God protects His people when they fight for Him, (armour of God).*

*Themes for Christian Studies 7, (Protector): God is our shelter*

### **Biblical references**

#### **Bible stories and passages**

Esther 1-10 - God used Esther to protect His people.

Ephesians 6:10-18 - The armour of God  
1 Samuel 17:1-58 – David and Goliath  
1 Samuel 18-19 – God protected David against Saul  
Psalm 27:4-14 - Shelter in the house of the Lord  
Psalm 18:30-36; Psalm 61:3 - God is our protector.  
Psalm 121:5-8 - The Lord watches over you

### **Memory verses**

Psalm 56:3 – When I am afraid, O Lord Almighty, I put my trust in you. (GNB)  
Psalm 4:8 – When I lie down, I go to sleep in peace; You alone, O Lord, keep me perfectly safe.  
Psalm 17:8 – Hide me in the shadow of your wings  
Proverbs 30:5 - God keeps every promise he makes. He is like a shield for all who seek His protection.  
James 4:7 - Resist the devil  
Proverbs 18:10 – The Lord is like a strong tower where the righteous can go and be safe.  
Psalm 18:2 The Lord is my protector. He is my strong fortress.  
Jeremiah 16:19 – Lord, You alone are the one who protects me and gives me strength; you help me in times of trouble.  
Psalm 46:1 - God is our shelter and our strength; always ready to help in times of trouble

### **Key Questions**

What is a shelter?  
What kinds of shelters are there?  
What do these buildings shelter us from?  
What kind of dangers does God shelter us from?  
Why is a castle able to protect those inside it?  
What is a fortress?  
Why does the Bible say that God is a fortress?  
What are the fiery darts that Satan throws at Christians?  
How can Christians protect themselves against the fiery darts of Satan? (Eph.6)  
What does God think about war?  
What kind of battle does God want us to fight today?

## **a) Houses**

### **Outcomes**

Students will

*Knowledge*

- demonstrate some of the principles of building a house
- explain how climate and materials available, have influenced styles of buildings
- design a house
- compare building techniques and materials
- identify some famous architectural structures around the world

### *Skills*

- plan, experiment, appraise
- identify design features discovered in nature

### *Values*

- use team work
- patience in construction work
- trust God for protection

## **Activities**

- Visit a nearby building under construction periodically and discuss progress.
- Describe parts of the house: foundations, walls, roof, windows.
- List different building materials. Describe how they are used: concrete, bricks, wood, metal, plastic, glass, insulation.
- Examine some architectural plans
- Design a house and draw up a plan.
- Make miniature houses from blocks, cardboard boxes, wood or clay.
- Study photographs of different types of dwellings - e.g. teepee, igloo, cave dwelling, solar house, space station, Aboriginal shelter, Old Testament tabernacle, Solomon's temple, Middle Eastern house
- Draw or construct models of some of these.
- Research the history of shelter.
- Compare homes around the world and compare differences related to suitability to climatic conditions.

## **b) Castles**

### **Outcomes**

Students will

- compare life in the Middle Ages with life today
- explain the reason for the construction of castles
- describe the role of knights, and give details of their armour and weapons
- compare life and defences in the Middle Ages with defence today
- sequence events on a time line
- discuss God's opinion on war
- realize that Old Testament battles were a symbol of the New Testament battle against powers and principalities

### **Activities**

- Draw a time line showing symbols to represent significant stages or events in world history, including the Middle Ages e.g. Noah's Ark, Birth of Christ, invention of the car.
- Discuss the meaning of a 'century'. Compare it to a person's life span.
- Discuss life in the Middle Ages.
- Hold a Medieval feast.
- Research medieval musical instruments.
- Calculate how many centuries after Christ the Middle Ages occurred.

- Look at pictures of castles that are still standing today. (Use travel brochures). Study a map of Europe, and identify countries where castles once functioned.
- Set up a resource centre for research: How were the first castles constructed? Who lived in castles? What were the later developments in castle construction? What were the protective features of castles? What happened in the event of an attack?
- Draw different types of castles, including cross-sections, showing interior. Label rooms and explain what each room was used for.
- Make 3D models of castles.
- Compare a castle with God as a fortress.
- Research the role of knights, their armour and their weapons.
- Compare this armour to the armour of God mentioned in Ephesians 6. Draw a soldier of God dressed in armour and label the parts.
- Discuss the need for defence, and God's opinion of war.

### Assessment

1. Draw a plan of your house.
2. Make a book about buildings in the local community.
3. Make a poster on comparing early shelters in your country with houses today.
4. What have I learned from the study of shelter...
  - about God?
  - about doing what God wants me to do?
  - about the Bible?

### Link with Australian Curriculum

**Science Year 4:** Physical sciences – Forces can be exerted by one object on another through direct contact or from a distance

### Learning Connections:

**English:** using imagination to construct stories of the past, involving buildings and structures from the past

**Science:** forces used in building construction

**Social studies:** buildings in the community

**History:** History of shelter

**Mathematics:** research strength of shapes and prisms

**Art:** Construction of model buildings

**Thinking Skills:** Building designs for particular purposes; use of building blocks to create structures that will support weights

### Additional Beacon Media resource

'Shelter' – See Units of Study, Student workbook