

June 3, 2018 – Outside the Box

Bible Story Focus: The Armor of God
Ephesians 6:10-19

Memory Verse: If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! 2 Corinthians 5:17

Main Point: God makes us strong against evil.

Big Picture Question: Who changes us? God changes us to be like Jesus.

Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction (Small Groups, 15 minutes)

Activities that encourage preschoolers to enter the classroom and begin engaging with peers and Small Group Leaders by providing age appropriate and hands on fun while introducing new concepts they will hear in the day's Bible story.

Prepare to offer the following activities as Your 3-, 4-, or 5-year-olds arrive.

1. Perform exercises

Lead preschoolers in a simple workout routine. Include exercises such as squats, lunges, toe touches, sit-ups, jumping jacks, planks, and so forth. Assign a certain number of repetitions for each exercise and count for preschoolers as they perform the exercises. Comment on their strength.

What you say - Exercising helps make our bodies strong. In today's Bible story, Paul wrote a letter to the believers in Ephesus because he wanted them to be strong. But Paul was not talking about physical strength. He was talking about spiritual strength. Paul said that following Jesus is like fighting a battle: good against evil, and God makes us strong against evil. Listen to our Bible story to hear what God gives us for protection.

Story: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways

Engage kids' hearts through a dynamic and interactive Bible story and prayer experience in a Large Group setting.

Bible Story

What You Need: Bible

Introduce the Bible story

Place a bookmark at Ephesians 6 in your Bible. Hold up the Bible. Ask preschoolers to tell you what it is.

What you SAY - What would you say if I told you that the Bible is like a sword? We don't use the Bible to hurt people, but we do use the Bible to fight against sin. Listen to hear more about what God gives us to fight evil.

Watch or tell the Bible story

Invite a preschooler to open the Bible to the bookmark at Ephesians 6. Reverently display the open Bible.

What you SAY - We can believe what God says in the Bible because God's Word is true. Today's Bible story comes from the Book of Ephesians in the New Testament. Show the video or tell the Bible story using the provided storytelling helps.

Play Bible Story – The Armor of God here

Talk about the Bible story

What you SAY - Following Jesus is not easy. We have to fight against sin every day, but we do not fight with our own strength. God makes us strong against evil. God gives people who believe in Jesus everything they need to stand strong.

Ask the following review questions:

1. Does being a Christian make life easy? (no) 2. Why did Paul write to the believers in Ephesus? (He wanted them to be strong.) 3. What does God give us so we know what is true? (the Bible, God's Word) 4. What should we always be ready to tell others? (the good news about Jesus) 5. What does God give us to help us trust Him? (faith) 6. Who defeated sin when He died on the cross for sinners and rose from the dead? (Jesus)

Learn the big picture question

What you SAY - Can you answer our big picture question? Who changes us? God changes us to be like Jesus. One of the ways God changes us is to help us fight against sin. God gives us everything we need to be strong. Jesus won the war against sin when He died on the cross and rose from the dead. We fight against sin each day, knowing Jesus already won for us.

Practice the key passage

Open your Bible to 2 Corinthians 5:17. Read the key passage aloud several times.

What you SAY • Our key passage reminds us that we are made new when we trust in Jesus. Jesus already defeated evil. Even though we fight, we know Jesus already won! Transition to experience the story

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (Small Groups, 25 minutes)

Create a safe place to connect through activities that are written to reach every learning style while reinforcing the Main Point that was introduced during the Bible Story and applying it to real life experiences. In addition, these activities provide preschoolers with an opportunity to build relationships with their Small Group Leader.

Offer as many of the following activities as your time, facilities, resources, and leadership allow. You may want to lead one activity at a time. Or, offer two activities at once and allow half the kids to participate in each. Then switch groups and repeat the activities.

1. Make Armor of God Shields

What you need: Shield activity page, crayons, stickers, and Main Point label

Copy the shield activity page onto cardstock. Attach a 1 inch strip of cardstock to the back side of the shield that will allow the child to hold the shield. Invite preschoolers to draw on the shield with markers. Review the Bible story as preschoolers work. Allow preschoolers to enjoy the creative process. Once they have completed their artwork, help each child to put a Main Point label on their shield.

What you SAY - Paul wrote, "Put on the armor of God. Be ready."
Living in this world is hard, but God gives us everything we need to be strong. God makes us strong against evil. We do not have to be afraid because God protects us with His truth, righteousness, and salvation. He gives us the good news, faith, and His Word to help us stand strong. Throw "darts" at a shield Use a marker to draw a large shield shape on a sheet of clear

2. Bible Story Coloring Page

Snack

Gather preschoolers for snack time. Thank God for the snack. Explain will help preschoolers grow strong bones. Remind preschoolers that a strong spirit is needed to follow Jesus. Living in this world is hard, but God makes us strong against evil. God protects us with His truth, righteousness, and salvation. He gives us the good news, faith, and His Word to help us stand strong.

What you SAY - God, thank You that Jesus won the war against sin when He died on the cross and rose from the dead. Make us strong against evil. Thank You that as we fight against sin each day, we know Jesus already won for us. Amen.