

## Today's Suggested Schedule—July 18, 2021, Week 3 ARMOR OF GOD

### PROPS NEEDED:

- 1) TISSUE BOX WITH TISSUES
- 2) BAG OF ORANGES, BOWL WITH WATER
- 3) NERF GUN WITH NERF "ARROWS"
- 4) FRISBEES TO ACT AS SHIELDS

### **SOCIAL:** Providing Time for Fun Interaction (15 minutes)

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

**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)

**Monthly Life App:** Confidence—Learning to see yourself the way God sees you

**Basic Truth:** I can trust God no matter what.

*Before kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for them. Thank God for giving us the armor of His Holy Spirit to stand strong against the enemy. Pray for protection around your group today as you discuss and engage with the truth that God empowers us to fight back against unseen forces. Ask God to clear your kids' minds of negative thoughts and bad attitudes so they can clearly hear from Him today.*

### **What You Do:**

Greet kids by name as they arrive.

Invite any kid who brought an offering to put it in the offering container.

Direct each kid to use one pump of hand sanitizer.

### TABLE ACTIVITY WHEN KIDS ENTER: COLORING THE "PIECES" OF ARMOR OF GOD

### **LARGE GROUP:** Story (25 minutes) • Worship (10 minutes)

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

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*Optional Video (Media Package): Countdown (30- or 60-second version)*

*Video (Media Package): Theme*

**Audio:** Play Teacher's favorite song

*Leader enters, dancing to the music.*

## **OPENER**

**AUDIO:** Keep the music playing

**JAMES & FANNY LEADER:** "Hello, everyone! *(Keep dancing.)* It's great to see all of you here at Kidzone! All summer, we're finding out what it means to live with confidence.

*Video (Media Package): Theme Transition to Life App*

**FANNY** "Confidence is learning to see yourself the way God sees you.

*Video (Media Package): Life App Transition to Theme*

"That's where true confidence comes from—when you know how much God loves you, and you know that He's always with you!

**JAMES** *(still dancing)* "You know what? This SONG just makes me feel so confident! Whenever I'm having a tough day, all I have to do is crank this song up, and I instantly feel like I can take on the world. I call it my 'walk-up song.' You know how baseball players have their favorite song playing when they walk up to bat? Or how basketball players have a really cool song playing while they warm up before the game? It's like that. Your walk-up song will always pump you up!

**AUDIO:** Fade out music

"I've put together a playlist with some great walk-up songs that will really make us MOVE. That'll come in handy as we play today's game: **The Tissue Dance-Off!**

"Here, everyone take one of these.

*Pick up the box of tissues. Let each kid grab a tissue, and take one for yourself.*

"Does everyone have a tissue? Okay, put it on top of your head. *(Put your tissue on your head.)* When the music plays, everyone must dance—and I mean, you've got to REALLY dance. Not like this. *(Do a slight dance step without moving your upper body.)* Like this! *(Do a more extreme version, moving your whole body.)*

“While you dance, try to keep the tissue on your head. If it falls off, you have to sit down right where you were dancing. But don’t worry—you can pop back up and start dancing with the tissue on your head as soon as the next song starts.

“Is everyone ready? *(Pause for response.)* Here we go—everybody dance now!

**AUDIO:** *Songs from your playlist, changing about every 30 seconds*

*Dance with the kids until the playlist runs out. If a kid’s tissue falls to the floor, have them sit for the remainder of the song, then jump up and dance again when the next song starts.*

“Whew! I’m out of breath. That was a super-fun dance-off! And I have some new confidence-boosting songs to pump me up. You can take the tissues off and toss them in here. *(Hold up the trash can so the kids can dispose of the tissues.)* But let’s keep the fun going as we sing, dance, and worship God!”

## **WORSHIP**

**LEADER:** “Before we get started, let’s watch this.

**Optional Video (Media Package):** *Live Loud Video from Get Reel*

“When we know that Jesus loves us, that gives us the very best kind of confidence. It’s like Paul wrote in his letter to the church in Rome. *‘Who can separate us from Christ’s love? Can trouble or hard times or harm or hunger? . . . No! In all these things we are more than winners! We owe it all to Christ, who has loved us.’* (Romans 8:35-37, NIV) That’s why I can’t help but sing and dance. I know that I belong to Jesus. That’s the reason I’m confident! Sing this with me.

**Video (Media Package):** *“You’re the Reason” Dance Moves Music Video*

“It’s so good to follow Jesus. His love is amazing! He is ALWAYS with us. We can trust Him to lead us through everything we might face in life. Let’s sing this out to Jesus and tell Him that we’ll trust Him!

**VIDEO:** *“Jesus I Will Trust You” / track 2 from This Love*

“That was so fun! You can have a seat.”

## **BIBLE STORY**

**Video:** *Bible Story*

## **SETTING UP THE STORY**

**FANNY LEADER:** “In the early days of the church, there was a man named Paul. At first, Paul tried to stop people from believing in Jesus. But one day, Paul had an experience with Jesus that changed him forever! Paul began to travel all over to tell people the good news about Jesus. This often meant that he ended up in trouble, both with religious leaders and government officials.

“In the last two years of his life, Paul found himself as a prisoner in Rome. He wasn’t free to travel, but he still found ways to encourage people in different churches by writing letters.

“Listen to what Paul wrote in his letter to the people of Ephesus.

*Open the Bible to Ephesians 6:10-11 (NIV) and read.*

*“Finally, let the Lord make you strong. Depend on his mighty power. Put on all of God’s armor. Then you can remain strong against the devil’s evil plans.”*

*Reveal the color-by-number artwork.*

## **AN ENEMY WE CAN’T SEE**

**LEADER:** “As a prisoner, Paul was guarded by a Roman soldier . . . so he would have been familiar with different kinds of Roman armor. Paul would have seen how all that armor could protect the soldier from any attack. So he encouraged the people in Ephesus to put on GOD’S armor, which can protect US from attacks. But Paul also knew that the greatest enemy we face isn’t one we can see.

“He wrote . . .

*Open the Bible to Ephesians 6:12-13 (NIV) and read.*

*“Our fight is not against human beings. It is against the rulers, the authorities and the powers of this dark world. It is against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly world. So, put on all of God’s armor. Evil days will come. But you will be able to stand up to anything. And after you have done everything you can, you will still be standing.*

“This can be a little tough for us to understand. (*Hold up Bible.*) But we know from what we read in the Bible that there are things going on that we can’t see. There are spiritual forces of good and evil . . . and God has an enemy named Satan. We’re told that in the end, Satan is defeated. But right now, Satan tries to mess with people and cause problems BETWEEN people.

“We’re doing battle against an enemy we can’t see with our eyes. And for that, Paul wrote, we need a very special kind of armor.

*(Reference the artwork.)* “I need some help as I explain this special armor. So raise your hand if you’d like to add some color to it.”

*Bring up a volunteer and give him/her the coloring supplies.*

## **TRUTH, GODLINESS, PEACE**

**JAMES LEADER:** *(to the kid)* “[Kid’s name], could you please color the part labeled with a number one in orange? Thanks!

*(to audience)* “Paul began to write about God’s armor this way.

*Open the Bible to Ephesians 6:14 (NirV) and read.*

*“So remain strong in the faith. Put the belt of truth around your waist.*

“A soldier used a belt to tie up any loose clothing and hold his weapons, so that he was ready to go. When Paul said to put on the belt of truth, he meant that we should remember God’s truth which will prepare us for the things we face in life. We need to remember what’s true: God loves us, He’s always with us, and He will give us wisdom to make any tough decision we face.

*(to the kid)* “Good job, [kid’s name]. You can have a seat when you’re done. Who can come up here and color the number two section in gold?

*Bring up the next volunteer and have them color. (Note: If the previous kid isn’t quite finished when you’re ready for the next color, there’s no need to wait. Just keep moving and let the previous kid finish at his/her own pace.)*

*(to audience)* “Paul continued his description of the armor.

*Open the Bible to Ephesians 6:14 (NirV) and read.*

*“Put the armor of godliness on your chest. (NirV)*

*(Point to the chest armor on the artwork.)* “This piece of armor protected a soldier’s heart, lungs, and stomach—all the really important stuff.

“Paul was saying that OUR protection is godliness. This simply means following God in what we do and say by loving God and loving others. It’s our very best defense against the enemy!

*(to the kid)* “Nice job with the gold, [kid’s name]. When you’re done, you can have a seat. I need someone else to come up and take care of the threes for me.

*Bring up the next volunteer and have them color.*

*(to the new kid)* “You can color those threes in brown, [kid’s name].

*(to audience)* “Next, Paul moved down to what we wear on our feet.

*Open the Bible to Ephesians 6:15 (NirV) and read.*

*“Wear on your feet what will prepare you to tell the good news of peace.*

“Check those out! *(Point to the drawing of the shoes.)* Kind of sandals, kind of cleats. Roman soldiers actually wore shoes with nails sticking out of the bottom so they could get a good grip on rough and rocky roads.

“Paul was saying that the way we ‘get a grip’ is by sharing God’s message of peace with the people we meet . . . everywhere our feet take us. Because of Jesus, everyone can have peace with God!

*(to the kid)* “Thank you, [kid’s name], for coloring in those shoes. You can have a seat when you’re done.”

## **FAITH, SALVATION, GOD’S WORD**

**LEADER:** *(to audience)* “I need a new volunteer to come color the number four section in silver.

*Bring up the next volunteer and have them color.*

“Paul continued.

*Open the Bible to Ephesians 6:16 (NirV) and read.*

*“Also, pick up the shield of faith. With it you can put out all the flaming arrows of the evil one.*

“A Roman soldier’s shield was everything! Not only could a soldier block arrows, swords, and spears, but he could get right behind his shield and charge, to push back the enemy. That’s exactly what strong faith in God can do for us.

“Faith means trusting in what you CAN’T see because of what you CAN see. It’s believing in God and knowing that He’s always with you. Maybe the enemy tries to sneak in a thought like, ‘Nobody likes me,’ . . . but you block it because you have faith that God loves you no matter what!

*(to the kid)* “[Kid’s name], thanks for coloring in the shield. You can have a seat when you’re done.

*(to audience)* “It’s time for my next volunteer. Who’s got number five for me?

*Bring up the next volunteer and have them color.*

*(to the new kid)* “[Kid’s name], I need you to color the number five section in gold.

*(to audience)* “Let’s look at the next piece of armor. Paul wrote . . .

*Open the Bible to Ephesians 6:17 (NirV) and read.*

*“Put on the helmet of salvation.*

“A helmet protects just what you think: your head! Your mind.

“When you put on the ‘helmet of salvation,’ that means you live every day KNOWING that Jesus is your Savior—knowing that Jesus died on the cross and paid the price for your sins so you could be forgiven and be God’s friend forever!

*(to the kid)* “Thank you, [kid’s name]. That helmet looks incredible. You can sit down when you’re finished.

*(to audience)* “Okay—we’ve got just one piece of armor left. So I need one last volunteer to come up and color in the part labeled number six, with silver.

*Bring up the next volunteer and have them color.*

“Paul wrote . . .

*Open the Bible to Ephesians 6:17 (NirV) and read.*

*“And take the sword of the Holy Spirit. The sword is God’s word.*

*(Hold up Bible.)* “The Bible is sometimes called ‘God’s Word.’ It was written by people who were inspired by God’s Holy Spirit. When you read the Bible, you’ll discover all kinds of amazing stories, letters, and poems that fit together to tell God’s Big Story. When you read and remember what’s in the Bible, you can always know what’s true. It’s a like a sword that can protect you, so you can stand up to any attack by the enemy!

(to the kid) “Wow—check out that sharp sword. Nice job, [kid’s name].”

*Let the last kid finish coloring the sword, and let any of the other kids finish if they haven’t already. If it’s taking too long, you can always grab another marker/colored pencil/paintbrush/crayon of the remaining color(s) and help the kid(s) finish. Thank the kid(s) and dismiss them to their seats.*

## WRAPPING UP THE STORY

**FANNY LEADER:** (looking at the artwork) “This looks great, everyone! Thanks to our artists for helping out.

(Reference the armor on the artwork.) “Remember, Paul said to ‘put on all of God’s armor’ (Ephesians 6:13, NIV): the belt of truth . . . the armor of godliness on your chest . . . the good news of peace on your feet . . . the shield of faith . . . the helmet of salvation . . . and the sword of the Holy Spirit, which is God’s Word.

“We may not be wearing actual armor like this. (Reference the artwork.) But God has given us everything we need to stand up to anything we face in life—because of our confidence in Him!

**SLIDE: Bottom Line**

**[Bottom Line]** “Use what God has given you to stand strong.

**SLIDE: Theme Background**

“Let’s talk to God ask Him to help us do that.”

## PRAY

**JAMES LEADER:** “Dear God, thank You for giving us all we need to stand strong. Help us be strong in what we believe by putting on the belt of truth, the armor of godliness, and the good news of peace on our feet. Help us put on the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Holy Spirit—the sword of Your word. Help us remember how much You love us, and all that You’ve done for us, so that we can live with true confidence every day. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

## CLOSER



**JAMES LEADER:** “The truth is, we’ll have trouble in this world. We’ll get in arguments with friends and family members. Things will happen that we never expected. But God has given us a kind of armor that will help us be ready for troubles that we CAN’T see. His armor will protect us and help us stand strong.

**SLIDE: Bottom Line**

**[Bottom Line]** “Use what God has given you to stand strong. Say that with me.”

**LEADER and KIDS:** **[Bottom Line]** “Use what God has given you to stand strong.”

**LEADER:** “Paul wrote that God’s word is like a sword. When voices inside try to tell you you’re not good enough or you don’t matter, your sword can help you fight back with the truth. The truth is, you DO matter . . . and God loves you so much that He sent Jesus to save you from your sins.

“Always remember that God is with you, and **[Basic Truth]** you can trust Him no matter what. The armor that God gives you will help you stand strong through anything you face in life.

“In Small Group, you’ll get to talk some more about what it means to put on God’s armor and stand strong. Let’s head that way right now!”

### **SMALL GROUP AT TABLES:**

**Pray**

**[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]**

*Made to Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application*

**What You Need:** “Armor Pieces” Activity Pages and armored soldier posters from “Roll the Armor” activity

**What You Do:**

Gather the group around the finished Soldier Posters from “Roll the Armor.”

Ask them to think about the pieces of armor they will need this week to stand strong.

The belt of truth to remember that God loves them and is with them

The helmet of salvation to follow Jesus’s way instead of their own

The armor of godliness to protect their heart against big emotions like sadness, fear, or anger

The shoes of peace to live for God and share Jesus with others

The sword of God’s Word to fight temptation

The shield of faith to follow Jesus even if others make fun of them or don’t understand

Allow some time for kids to share about how they think the armor of God might come into play for them this week.

Then give each kid their own set of armor, reminding them to **[Bottom Line] use what God has given you to stand strong.**

Close in prayer.

**What You Say:**

“Dear God, thank You for the armor You give us so we can stand strong in following Jesus. Please help us use every piece to make the wise choice and live the way You want us to. Please help us stand strong in the truths of Your Word. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

**DEMO: Invincible Orange**

**[Live for God | Application Activity]**

*Made to Explore: an activity that extends learning through hands-on experimentation and discovery*

**What You Need:** Oranges, bucket or bowl of water, hand wipes, tongs

**What You Do:**

Gather kids in a circle and give each kid an orange. Keep one orange for yourself.

Place the bucket or bowl of water in the middle of the circle.

Ask: Do you think an orange will sink or float?

Place the orange in the water. It will float.

Peel your orange and place it back in the water. It will sink!

If the kids want to try the experiment with their own oranges, let them.

If you plan to let them eat the oranges after they pull them out of the water, be sure to have everyone sanitize their hands before peeling their oranges. Then use tongs to pull the peeled oranges out of the bucket of water.

**What You Say:**

“God makes things so cool, doesn’t He? He created a way for the orange to stay safe and strong, even in water. This peel that He gave it protects it from the sun and other natural elements as it grows.

“Just like God gave this orange what it needs, God gives us what we need to stand strong, too. Have you ever felt surrounded by emotions or confusing choices, or stuck in a situation that seems scary? *(Invite discussion, but be sensitive to kids who might be going through difficult times.)*

“It can be hard to stand strong for what we believe—to follow Jesus even when other people aren’t or when we feel afraid or silly for trying to make the wise choice.

“How can you, like the orange, **[Bottom Line] use what God has given you to stand strong?**”

***[Make It Personal] (Share about a time when you used the armor of God to stand strong.)***

#### ACTIVITY: USING NERF GUN & "ARROWS"

ASK KIDS: What could these arrows represent? What does Satan, our enemy, want to fire at us?

Sample answers: fears (of dark, of not doing something well, ), feeling guilty, someone bullying us, someone making us feel like we're not good enough, feeling lonely, etc.

"Okay, take up your shields (the frisbees), and EXTINGUISH these fiery darts!"

#### DISMISSAL

As adults arrive to pick up, make sure kids take their armor with them. If you have **extra oranges**, **send them home** with the kids or set up the experiment so families can see one orange float and a peeled orange sink. Prompt the kids to explain that just like the orange, God has given us what we need to stand strong.