

Here We Stand Sunday School Lesson

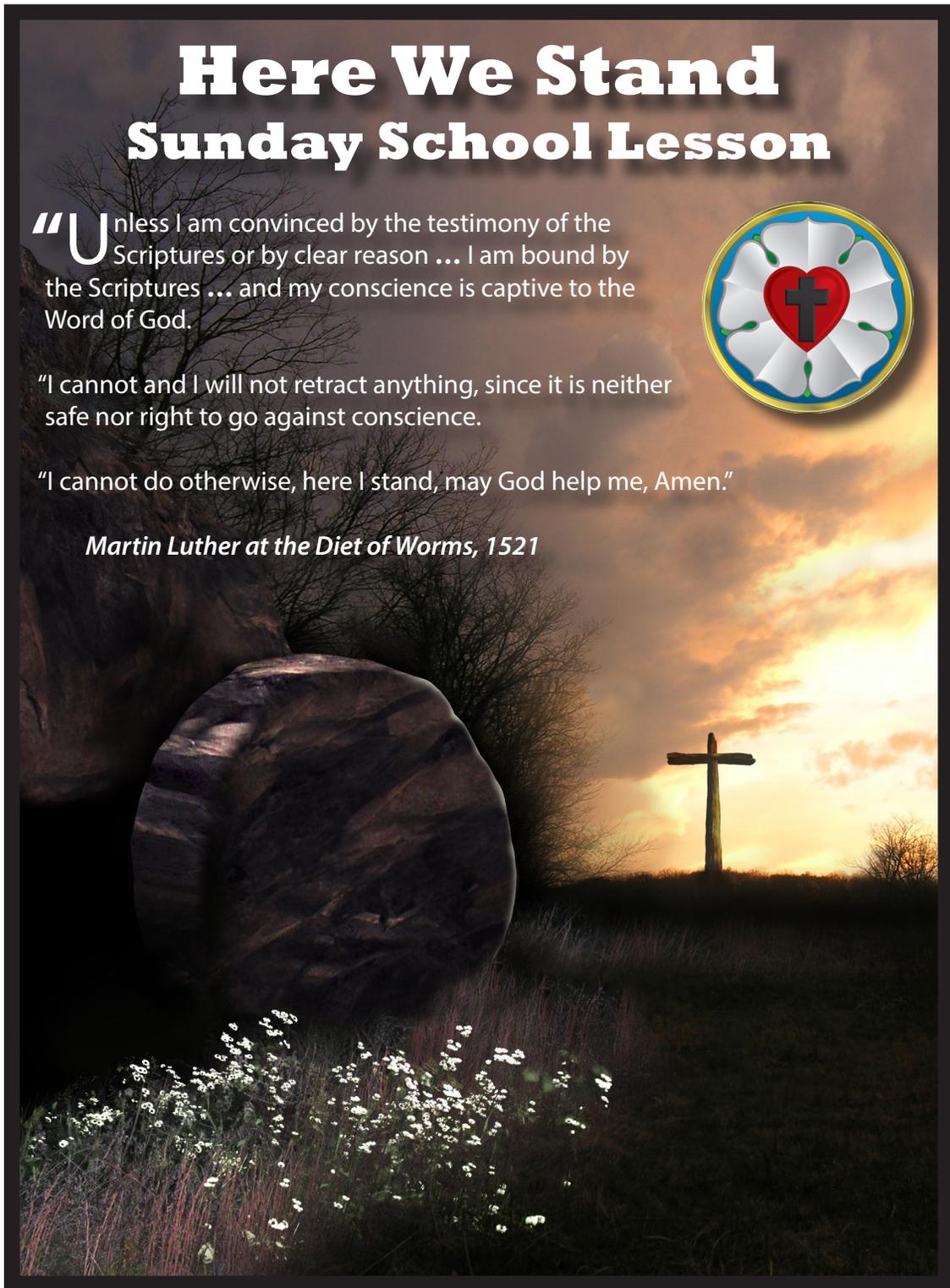
“Unless I am convinced by the testimony of the Scriptures or by clear reason ... I am bound by the Scriptures ... and my conscience is captive to the Word of God.



“I cannot and I will not retract anything, since it is neither safe nor right to go against conscience.

“I cannot do otherwise, here I stand, may God help me, Amen.”

Martin Luther at the Diet of Worms, 1521



“Here We Stand” Life Sunday School Lesson

Lesson Objectives:

1. The devil, the world, and our own sinful nature want to tear us away from Jesus, but we have the armor of God to protect us and keep us standing firm against them.
2. Knowing God’s Word enables us to fight back against the enemy’s lies.
3. Jesus took the punishment for *all* of our sins on the cross. Even when we give in to temptation, God still loves us and forgives us in Christ.

God’s Word: Ephesians 6:10-17; Matthew 4:1-11

Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. (Ephesians 6:13)

But he answered, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’” (Matthew 4:4)

Materials List

Lesson:

- Reproducible 1: Armor of God coloring/cut out page
- Reproducible 2: Additional Armor of God coloring page
- Consider gluing these to thin cardboard, like a cereal box, for stability. Color or decorate as you see fit.

Activity:

- Reproducible 1, one per student
- Reproducible 2, one per student
- Blank paper on which to draw a paper soldier
- Safety scissors, coloring tools (crayons or colored pencils preferred over markers)
- Bible Story: Jesus Tempted in the Wilderness (Matthew 4:11), six copies, one per reader

Snack:

- Bread slices, cut in half, two or three slices per student as appropriate for their age
- Grapes or similar-sized fruit pieces, or anything else that might taste good wrapped in bread

Note to Teacher

In class, you will read Ephesians 6:13-17. Note that Ephesians 6:10-12 does not need to be read in class. However, you should make a point to mention that the weapons and armor of the spirit are not for physical warfare, but spiritual. We are fighting ideas and schemes, not people.

There are plenty of good spiritual interpretations for each piece of the armor of God. Don’t feel like you have to steer kids toward any one “right” answer as to how each piece might protect you. You will also read the story of Jesus’ temptation in Matthew 4:1-11. Familiarize yourself with it.

For an opening prayer, consider doing a confession/absolution.

Lesson

Object Lesson: Suit of Armor

Show students the reproducible printout of armor pieces.

Perhaps glue or otherwise mount the cutouts to stiff cardboard, like a cereal box.

Talk about how sometimes the devil, the world, and even our own minds might lead us astray.

- The devil tells you that God could never love you.
- The world tells you that it doesn't matter what God's Word says.
- Your own mind tells you to do whatever you want to do without caring about others.
- What other "spiritual attacks" might we have to endure?
- How does Jesus help us to stand firm?

Have a student read Ephesians 6:13-17. Each time a piece of armor is mentioned, have kids find it and put it on the man. Talk about what the armor piece protects, both physically and spiritually.

Belt of Truth

- The belt holds everything else in the suit of armor together.
- Truth holds everything you believe together. If you believe in a lie, it doesn't matter how good it is; it's still wrong.

Breastplate of Righteousness

- A breastplate covers your heart, lungs, stomach, etc.
- Righteousness—your good relationship with God through Jesus—protects your most precious "spiritual organs."

Shoes of the Gospel/Good News

- Shoes enable you to dodge and move quickly in combat.
- The Gospel—the good news that Jesus has died for your sins—enables you to dodge the enemy's lies with the truth that God loves you in Christ no matter what.

Shield of Faith

- A shield is like a wall that can stop flaming darts and arrows, turning away blows from a sword.
- Faith—believing in Jesus as your Savior—gives you a shield that can stop the enemy's lies in their tracks.

Helmet of Salvation

- A helmet protects your head and your brain.
- Remember your salvation, that Jesus saves you, and you will be protected from temptations that might confuse you or mess with your head.

Sword of the Spirit, the Word of God

- A sword is a weapon that lets you strike back at the enemy.
- God's Word is our tool to fight back against the world's lies.

Bible Story: Jesus Tempted in the Wilderness (Matthew 4:1-11)

Have kids act out the story: get three volunteers to say the devil's lines and three more to say Jesus' lines. Have an older child narrate or else narrate the story yourself. (See Bible story handout.)

Narrator: Hungry! That's how Jesus feels as He walks through the desert for 40 straight days without any food. Hungry and tired. God's Spirit has led Jesus here to get Him ready to do His work on earth. But before that work can begin, the devil appears to put Jesus to one last test.

Devil 1: You look hungry, Jesus! That's no way to live! Turn these stones into soft, warm, delicious bread, and eat up until you're full!

Jesus 1: God's Word says, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:4).

Devil 2: Come with me to the top of the temple, Jesus. Look at all these people! Doesn't God promise to send His angels to catch you if you jumped from here? That would sure be a sight for them to see! You'd be famous!

Jesus 2: God's Word says, "You shall not put the Lord your God to the test" (Matthew 4:7).

Devil 3: Bah! Forget about them. Look at me, Jesus. I've sure made a mess of things, haven't I? Tell you what, I'll leave this world forever! You can fix it all up, and I promise never to mess anything up ever again. In return, all I ask is that you bow down just this one time and worship me.

Jesus 3: Be gone, Satan! God's Word says, "You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve" (Matthew 4:10b).

Narrator: And with that, the devil left Jesus, and God sent His angels to take care of Jesus and get Him ready to save us all.

Activity: Armor of God

- For younger kids, simply print more of the reproducible used in the object lesson and have them color and cut out their pieces. Crayons or colored pencils are recommended over markers to avoid paper curling.
- For older kids, encourage them to draw and color their own armor pieces. Give them the list, though: belt, breastplate, boots, helmet, shield, sword.
- Encourage kids to draw a paper soldier to dress with the armor pieces.

Snack: Bread into Stones

- Make sure kids wash their hands before this activity.
- You may not be able to turn stones into bread, but can you make bread into stones?
- Wrap a piece of bread (one-half slice recommended) around a grape and gently press it into a round ball.
- Don't crush it!
- Can you wrap one piece of bread around two grapes? Make sure no holes are showing!
- Enjoy eating your fruit-filled bread stones!

Review Bible Story

- The devil doesn't like it when you follow Jesus. He wants you to follow him instead.
- Jesus protects you from the devil and gives you truth, righteousness, the Gospel, salvation, faith, and His own Word to help you fight back.
- Jesus has already beaten the devil and won everlasting life for you. Stand firm against the devil until the day Jesus calls you home!

Close with Prayer

Bible Story: Jesus Tempted in the Wilderness (Matthew 4:11)

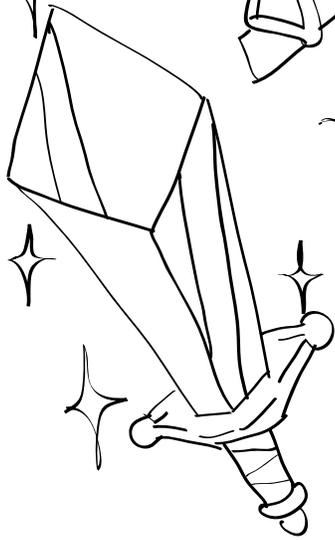
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HELMET OF
SALVATION

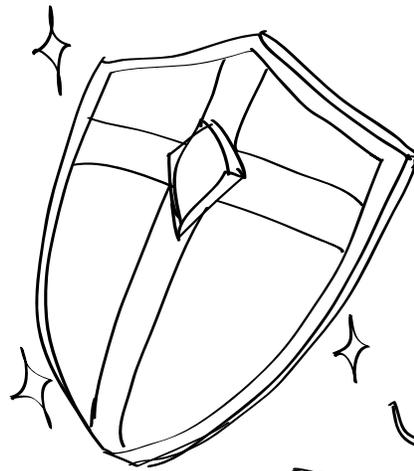


THE WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD

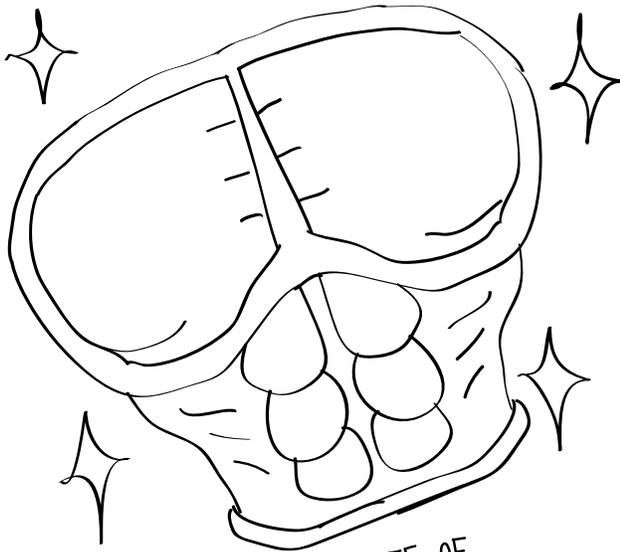
EPHESIANS 6:10-20



SWORD
OF THE WORD



SHIELD OF
FAITH

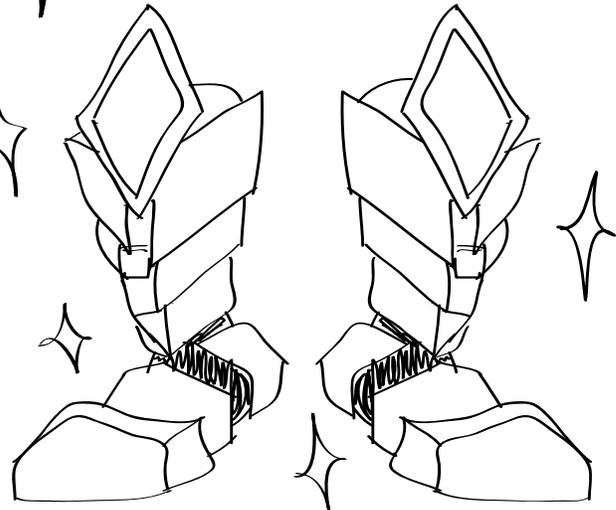


BREASTPLATE OF
RIGHTEOUSNESS



BELT OF
TRUTH

SHOES OF
GOODNEWS



Put on the whole armor of God

