

# **ARMOR OF GOD**

OVERVIEW OF GOD'S SPIRITUAL ARMOR

*Family Study Guides*

# Introduction to the Armor of God

## Family Study Guide

*In the next several months we will learn more about each piece of God's armor as we review examples from the Bible where the armor was used and strengthen our own personal Godly armor.*

### **Objectives:**

- Define the Armor of God as a set of spiritual tools that God provides us with to fight for Him.
- Evaluate why we need the Armor of God in our daily war against Satan.
- Identify the parts that make up the whole Armor of God, which helps us defeat Satan in our daily lives.

### **Memory Verse:**

*Ephesians 6:11 (NLT)* Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil.

### **A Future and a Hope for You**

Close your eyes and picture yourself in the future. What do you see? Did you know that God has had a vision and a plan for you since before the world was even created? Did you know that all of God's creation is waiting for a very exciting day? That day is when you will become a member of God's own family—forever—in His Kingdom! God wanted this so much that God the Father gave His only Son, Jesus Christ, so you could be part of their family forever when Jesus returns.

### **Invisible... But Very Real**

God's plan is for us to ultimately become sons and daughters in His coming Kingdom. While we rejoice at the blessing of being called into His Family, we must be aware of the forces going on around us that are attempting to stop God's plan and to stop us from being part of it. These forces may be invisible, but they are very real!

- We are in a constant battle against Satan, who will do everything he can to keep us from following God the Father and Jesus Christ.
- But it is a battle that God has called us to win!
- It is essential that we understand what the battle is, and what it takes to win.

*Ephesians 6:10-12* Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

*Ephesians 6:10* (Phillips) In conclusion be strong—not in yourselves but in the Lord, in the power of his boundless resource. Put on God's complete armor so that you can successfully resist all the devil's methods of attack.

## **FAMILY DISCUSSION**

Ask: Who is the devil? Who are the demons?

*[Briefly review the UCG Fundamental Belief: Satan the Devil]*

Discuss how Lucifer rebelled against God and how he wants us to rebel against God too.

Ask: What do you think Lucifer (Satan) did to convince 1/3 of God's angels to follow him?

*2 Corinthians 10:3 (ESV)* For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh.

Ask: Why is Satan waging war against us? What is he trying to do?

We are told to "stand against the wiles of the devil." (Ephesians 6:11 [NKJV])

Ask: What are "wiles of the devil?" Other translations say:

(TLB) ...strategies and tricks of Satan

(ESV) ...the schemes of the devil

(GNT) ...the Devil's evil tricks.

So Satan is scheming to deceive us into following him instead of God! We need God's power to keep us from being tricked like Adam and Eve were.

*2 Corinthians 11:3 (CEV)* But now I fear that you will be tricked, just as Eve was tricked by that lying snake. I am afraid that you might stop thinking about Christ in an honest and sincere way.

## **FAMILY DISCUSSION**

Ask: Has anyone ever tricked you into doing something that you did not want to do—or that was wrong? What happened? How did they do it?

*(People are tricked into buying something that does not work as promised. Many children are tricked into believing in Santa Claus, etc.)*

Ask: What are some of the ways that Satan tries to trick and defeat us? What do we need to watch for? What could take us away from God's way of life?

- Distraction or "Busy"-ness
- Discouragement
- Discontentment
- Family conflicts
- Fear
- World's way of life—seemingly fun
- False doctrines
- Anger
- Self-righteousness
- Doubt
- Guilt or self defeat
- Sin
- Relationship problems
- Other things?

**Reflect:** It is possible for us to either underestimate or overestimate the power Satan may have on our actions? Give some examples. Which do you think you do more?

While it can be scary to think about the power the evil one, we can be thankful that God gives us protection against the devil's constant attacks. With God's armor, we can be assured of this:

*Romans 8:37* (NLT) No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us. And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.

We can move ahead with confidence in God's love and power.

*Ephesians 6:10-11* Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

Let's discuss how to use God's power and protection—the Armor of God—to defeat the enemy!

*2 Corinthians 10:4-5* (AMP) The weapons of our warfare are not physical [weapons of flesh and blood]. Our weapons are divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. We are destroying sophisticated arguments and every exalted and proud thing that sets itself up against the [true] knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought and purpose captive to the obedience of Christ...

**READ:** *Ephesians 6:10-17*. As a family, count how many times the word “stand” is used.

*Ask:* What might God be telling us by using the word stand?

The Greek word here implies to stand ready or prepared (Thayer's Greek Lexicon)

*Ephesians 4:27* (NIV) ...do not give the devil a foothold.

We need to be on the offensive, standing against Satan's methods of warfare and not letting him get a foothold on us—and moving ahead towards the Kingdom of God!

## **Introduction to the Pieces of God's Armor**

When modern soldiers go into battle, it can cost about \$27,000 each to outfit them. For them to be prepared to do their jobs, they must be supplied with the resources to succeed. In the early New Testament times, the soldier's armor and weapons were more basic, but just as necessary.

**Discuss:** Why do soldiers need to wear all that armor and weaponry?

A government provides its soldiers with the supplies necessary to ensure the greatest probability of success in battle. Even more importantly, God equips us with everything needed for us to win our battle against the Devil!

*Philippians 4:19* (ESV) And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

*Ephesians 6:13* (GNT) So put on God's armor now! Then when the evil day comes, you will be able to resist the enemy's attacks; and after fighting to the end, you will still hold your ground.

**Discuss:** Satan does not want you to receive the blessings God has promised for you as children of God. What is he trying to keep us from attaining? (eternal life, physical blessings, knowledge of God's plan, heirs in Christ, true happiness) This is the ultimate battle of good versus evil. From the beginning of time, Satan has done everything possible to separate God from His children.

*Ask:* In what ways does he try to attain this? (possible answers—sin, deception, lies, false teaching, accusing brethren)

**DISCUSSION:** If we are at war, what should we do to prepare for a new battle every day? [*Read our Bibles, pray, go to church etc.*] Those are all needed.

God has given us spiritual resources so that we can protect ourselves from attacks from Satan. In the book of Ephesians, Paul writes about the Armor of God.

The Armor of God is a metaphor for being armed, protected and helped through the power of God's Holy Spirit. We can't go to a store and buy spiritual armor, but these are real tools that God wants us to use to fight for Him. He wants us to be warriors for Him, so He gives us six spiritual pieces of armor to wear.

In this Family Study Guide we give a quick overview of what these pieces of armor are. Then each month during the 2019-2020 Deuteronomy 6 Youth Instructional year we will discuss each piece of armor and how to use it in everyday life to win the battle against Satan.

**READ *Ephesians 6:11-18.*** Verses 11-12 show that we are at war with evil. What are some evil things that we have to "battle" in this life?

*Ephesians 6:14-17* discuss the six pieces of armor that God provides us for protection from evil. What are these pieces of armor?

*Together as a family, list and discuss each of the pieces.*

- You can show a Roman soldier and label the parts of armor as you discuss each.
- Use the Armor of God image on page 6 to make notes or color as each piece is discussed.
- You can download this poster as a daily reminder to "put on the armor" before you leave for the day. Armor of God poster was created by UCG member Sonny Wiseman

**Belt of Truth:** Satan is known as the Great Deceiver. He is a master at lying, so we need to be trained in the Truth. The Belt of Truth (*John 17:17*) helps us defend against Satan's lies.

**Breastplate of Righteousness:** The Breastplate of Righteousness protects our hearts. Righteousness is the state of being "right with God" through obedience—and by His forgiveness of our sins. God's commandments define righteousness (*Psalms 119:179*). It is striving to keep sin out of our hearts.

**Shoes of the Gospel of Peace:** All warriors need to be prepared to run or move forward in battle when called upon to do so. They never know when the battle will hit. We need to have Shoes of the Gospel of Peace so we can keep moving towards the Kingdom of God, and practice Godly ways. We always need to have on the Shoes of the Gospel of Peace so we can be prepared to share the Good News with anyone who needs to hear it.

**Shield of Faith:** Sometimes we sin because Satan finds a weakness in our armor and He aims well. The Shield of Faith moves to cover those weaknesses when we don't have the knowledge or strength to face a situation. Our shield will never fail because God is always faithful to us.

**Helmet of Salvation:** Salvation means to be saved or delivered from something. The Helmet of Salvation protects us from thinking ungodly thoughts by helping us think the way Jesus Christ thinks. It helps us focus on God's goodness to deliver us into His Kingdom. (*Psalms 107*)

**Sword of the Spirit (Word of God):** The Sword of the Spirit—the Bible—guides us into a Godly way of living. It helps us to be proactive in fighting Satan by cutting straight to the core of a matter and uncovering the truth (*Hebrews 4:12; 2 Corinthians 10:4-5*).

We should put these pieces of armor on every day, which will transform us into a “good soldier of Jesus Christ” (2 Timothy 2:3).

**DISCUSS:** How do we use the armor?

We have to put on the WHOLE armor, not just one piece. Why can't we just have one piece? Look at each piece of armor in the picture and discuss what can happen if a soldier leaves one piece of armor off?

## Possible Resources for Family Studies or Lesson Activities

- Check out the Teen Bible Study Guide: “Does Satan Exist?”
- On an index card, list the three biggest problems or challenges in your life right now. Place one circle around those three challenges. Now draw an “X” over the circle. Underneath the circle, write “Not the Enemy.” Satan may be using these things in your life as an attack—he is the true enemy. On the other side of the index card, write your favorite Bible version (translation) of Ephesians 6:10-12. Keep this index card with you or place it where you can see it to remind you that your enemy is invisible but real.
- In the table below, place a check showing how often you see these strategies being used as a way to try to defeat you. There are a couple of blank rows for you to fill in your own as an option. This is for you to reflect personally. The devil may have “schemes,” but he probably uses the same ones on you over and over again. Use this as an awareness of what to look for throughout your day so you can be ready and on the offensive!

	Not so much	Sometimes	I see this a lot!
Distraction			
Discouragement			
Discontentment			
Family Conflicts			
Fear			
World's Way (often seems fun)			
Fase doctrines			
Anger			
Self-righteousness			
Doubt			
Guilt			
Sin			
Relationship Problems			

# Put on the Whole Armor of God

- Read **Ephesians 6:10-17**
- Fill in the blank spaces
- Color the soldier

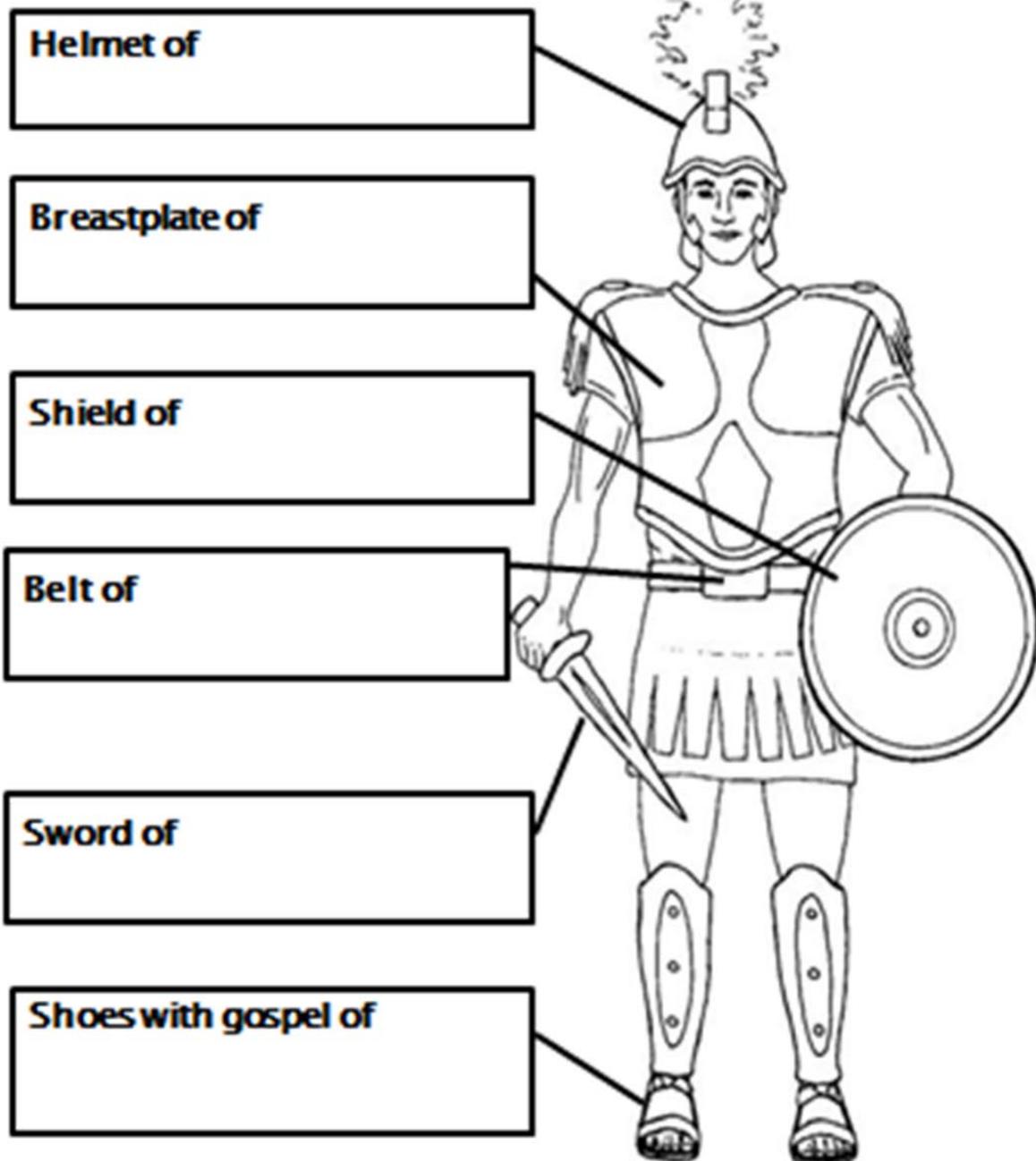


ILLUSTRATION BY J. BOSLER UCG

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Ready to Stand

Ephesians 6:14-17

Learn how you can get ready to stand in your faith every day.

Match the symbol in the verse with the symbol on the person. Write the word on each line to complete the verse.

Stand firm then, with the belt of



\_\_\_\_\_ buckled around

your waist, with the

breastplate of



\_\_\_\_\_ in

place, and with your feet fitted with the

readiness that comes from the gospel of



\_\_\_\_\_. In addition to all this, take up

the shield of



\_\_\_\_\_, with which you can

extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.

Take the helmet of



\_\_\_\_\_

and the sword of the



\_\_\_\_\_, which is the

Word of God.

