Lesson 9: We Are Protected

Overview:

Key Focus: God's heart to protect us from the devourer.

Bible Story: God Protects Us

Scriptures: John 10:10, 1 Peter 5:8, James 4:7, Mark 16:17, John 14:12–14, Psalm 34:7, Ephesians 6:10–17

Memory Verse: 2 Thessalonians 3:3 (NKJV) But the Lord is faithful, who will establish you and guard you from the evil one.

Prep:

Materials Needed:

- Protection items or pictures of several items, such as bike helmet, safety goggles, mask, picture of bullet proof vest, steel toe shoes, bee keeper's outfit with netted helmet, and reflective vest
- Scissors and glue sticks
- Posterboard, markers, and colored pencils

Classroom Prep:

- On separate papers write: *resist, God's Word, name of Jesus, Holy Spirit, angels*, and *armor*.

Engage:

Set the protection items on a table or show the pictures. **What do these items have in common?** (They are used to protect people.) Discuss each item and how it protects. Allow the children to share occasions when they have used the item or seen it used.

These items are very helpful when they are used. Are they helping people right now? (No, they are not being used by people when they are on the table.) **If I were a bee keeper, I would need to wear the bee keeping outfit in order to be protected. Just knowing about the**

outfit or seeing it in a picture won't keep a bee from stinging me. If I want protection, I will use what was designed to protect me. Today's Bible lesson will show us that we have some very special protection from God.

Memory Verse Activity:
Display and discuss the verse. **This verse reminds us of God's faithfulness to keep His promises and especially His promise to protect us. When we are telling other people about Jesus, sometimes the evil one, Satan, tries to stop that from happening. But God promises to establish or set us firmly in the right direction and guard us.**

As the group reads or says the verse together, choose a movement to do while saying the verse, such as feet together for one word and then feet apart for the next word, whisper, clap each word, touching knees and straightening up with each word, and stretch up with one word and stretch down to toes for the next word. Each time through the verse, ask a volunteer to select a different movement to do.

Memory Verse: 2 Thessalonians 3:3 (NKJV) But the Lord is faithful, who will establish you and guard you from the evil one.

Bible Story:

Hold up your Bible. **This is God's Word and it contains many plans for success, health, blessings, and also protection. These plans or promises were written long ago, but they are also all for us today. Let's find out more about how God protects His family. When we say "yes" to Jesus and receive forgiveness of our sins, we become His children who want to tell everyone the Good News about Jesus. Sometimes there are troubles or difficulties that happen and try to stop us from sharing God's love and free gift of salvation. When trouble comes it doesn't mean that God has forgotten about you or doesn't care, it means the devil is using things to try to stop people from worshiping God. Satan causes the bad, but God is good and greater.** Recite together or read John 10:10. **Stealing, killing, and destroying are not what God wants for us. He warns us to be aware of the evil one.** Read 1 Peter 5:8. **Lions devour or eat a lot. Notice this verse shows us that the devil acts like a lion—he's just a pretender. Just picture the devil dressed up in a lion costume. He's not as powerful as he pretends to be because Jesus defeated the devil when God raised Jesus from the dead. God and Jesus are powerful.**

God knows we need help against evil, so God promises to protect us just like He protected Daniel in the lion's den. What do you remember learning about Daniel using the gift of faith to believe in God's protection in the lion's den? (Possible answers: God sent angels

to close the lion's mouths; Daniel obeyed God and knew God would protect him; God protected Daniel so the king would tell everyone in his kingdom about God.)

The Bible mentions several ways God protects us. Invite a volunteer to show the first paper "resist" to the group. Read James 4:7. **This verse tells us to submit to God. We submit to God's authority by following what He says in the Bible. Then the verse tells us to resist the devil to make him go away. We resist by opposing him and standing firm against what he wants you to do. The devil is real, but God is also real and is greater! What makes the devil go away from you?** (When I resist the devil, he will flee or go away.)

Invite a volunteer to show "God's Word" to the group. **We learned that after Jesus was baptized, He was tempted by Satan twisting what God said. What did Jesus do to get rid of Satan?** (Jesus quoted verses because He knew what God said.) **You can use the same winning strategy that Jesus used. You can quote memory verses and speak the truth about God's promises and who you are as a child of God!**

Speaking the truth is always powerful and God protects us with something else that can be said for protection. Invite a volunteer to show "name of Jesus" to the group. Read Mark 16:17. **What was used to get rid of demons?** (The name of Jesus casts out the demons.) **The name of Jesus is a powerful weapon. The devil hates being reminded of the power of Jesus. Every time a Christian uses the name of Jesus, the devil runs away. Jesus was given all power and authority by God.** Read John 14:12–14. **We learned that Jesus promised we would have power to do even greater works than He did when we pray according to God's will and use the name of Jesus. What were some of the works Jesus did on the earth?** (Jesus healed people, cast out demons, and did miracles.) **God wants to protect us so we can see miracles that show people that they should follow Jesus. No devil in a lion costume can win against the power of Jesus and the power of Jesus' name!**

Invite a volunteer to show "Holy Spirit" to the group. **Jesus didn't leave us without power, remember, before He returned to heaven, He promised His followers that the Holy Spirit would come and be the power inside them every minute of every day. The disciples obeyed and waited in Jerusalem for ten more days and on Pentecost they were filled with the Holy Spirit. He was the "add-on, internal, power-pack booster" who would live inside believers in Jesus and give them power. When believers are filled and baptized with the Holy Spirit, He gives gifts that are powerful to use to help people know about Jesus. These gifts can also be used as powerful protection. Sometimes when you speak in tongues, the Holy Spirit can warn you about something so you can avoid danger. Sometimes the Holy Spirit helps you discern or know when someone or something is harmful.**

Invite a volunteer to show "angels" to the group. Read Psalm 34:7. **When we accept the free gift of salvation, we become part of God's family. Family members love and obey. When we are following God's ways, He promises to deliver us or protect us. Angels are one source of protection that we can't see with our physical eyes. Remember that we learned Elisha**

prayed that his servant would see the angels who would help them win the battle. We don't see angels around us protecting us, but God promises they are—so we know it is true!

Invite a volunteer to show "armor" to the group. Read Ephesians 6:10–13. **Notice that God is giving us His armor so that we look like Him and wear what is His. God told us to wear the "whole" armor. A soldier in a battle doesn't just wear one piece of protection. If you are in a battle, you wear everything that is available to protect yourself. We are in a battle because Satan knows he is defeated and soon Jesus will return and he will be cast down to hell, so he is trying to stop people from following Jesus. When we believe in Jesus as our Savior, God lets us have His armor for protection. God's armor isn't magical, but each piece teaches how to use the protection God gave us.**

Let's see what this armor is. Read Ephesians 6:14–17. Have everyone stand and do the motions of putting on armor as you talk about each piece.

- **We need to put on the belt of truth**. Have them pretend to buckle it on their waist.
- **We need to put on the breastplate of righteousness.** Have them pretend to put it on their chest. **This is one of the most important pieces because it is around the heart. We have Jesus' righteousness showing that God accepts us and we choose right actions that bring God glory.**
- **We need to put on the shoes of the gospel of peace.** Have them pretend to tie on shoes. **The gospel of peace reminds us that sin isn't keeping us from God because Jesus Christ died to pay for all sins.**
- **We need to put on the shield of faith.** Have them pretend to hold a shield. **The shield is huge and covers us. We have faith in all of God's promises to us and this protects us. We don't let any of the enemy's lies get past our shield of faith.**
- **We need to put on the helmet of salvation.** Have them pretend to put on a helmet. **Our thoughts need to focus on Jesus and His salvation.**
- **We need to put on the sword of the Spirit.** Have them pretend to hold it in their hand. **Remember, one of the jobs of the Holy Spirit is to remind us of what Jesus said. God's Word is a powerful weapon that Jesus used and we will also!**

As Christians, we have a job to tell people about Jesus and how to trust in Him to have their sins forgiven. Nothing should cause us any fear as we do our job because we know God's promise of protection. This week as you do your job, you need to remember the protection that you have and use it so that nothing stops you from letting people know about God's love for them. God's protection doesn't have an age limit. Now that you know how protected you are, go and tell everyone, everywhere about the Good News of Jesus! Lead a cheer for being protected as they tell others about Jesus!

Bible Story Questions:

- **Why does the devil do bad things?** (Possible answers: He knows Jesus is more powerful; he knows he will be sent to hell when Jesus returns; he tries to stop people from following Jesus.)
- **What are the ways we are protected from evil?** (We can resist the devil and he will flee, quote God's Word, use the name of Jesus, use the power of the Holy Spirit, know we are surrounded by angels, and use the armor of God.)
- **Which of these ways have you seen God use to protect you?** (Answers will vary.)
- **Which piece of the armor of God do think you might use for protection this week?** (Answers will vary.)

Bible Story Activities:

Games:

- Around the room, tape the six papers naming different protections. Have the children stand in the middle of the room as you read a scenario. Give a signal and everyone stands by the paper naming the way they would use that protection. There could be several different answers, so select someone by each paper to explain why they chose that protection. Gather everyone back in the center before reading the next scenario.

  Scenarios:
  Your friend is very convincing saying God is not real.
  You and a friend were hiking and are lost.
  You wonder if you really are a Christian.
  You keep having thoughts that everyone will laugh if they know you are a Christian.
  You are driving to church in a big storm.
  You were going to go tell your friend about Jesus but you woke up sick.
  Everything seems to be going wrong today and you doubt God's promises.

- Ideas for Working with Younger Kids:
  Have the children join you in the finger play.
  God protects me (clap with each word)
  Yes, He does! (stomp with each word)
  God gave me His protection. (point up to heaven)
  I have a salvation hat. (pretend to put on a hat)
  I have a belt of truth. (pretend to buckle the belt)
  I put on a shirt that looks like Jesus. (pretend to put on a shirt)
  I put on shoes of peace. (pretend to put on shoes)
  I have a shield of faith. (hold a pretend shield)
  I have a sword of God's Word. (hold up a pretend sword)
  God's protection. (point up to heaven)
  Shows He loves me! (give yourself a big hug)

Craft Ideas:

- Ideas for Working with Older Kids: 
  Set out posterboard, markers, and colored pencils. Allow the children to work in pairs or threesomes to create a poster about God's protection. Give time for them to work and also share their creations.

Worksheet:
Distribute scissors and glue sticks. Guide the children to cut out the statements and glue them to match the pieces of God's armor. Explain that each piece of armor doesn't do us any good unless we use them. Have the children draw themselves into the picture on the page to show that they will wear the armor. Talk about how they can use each piece of God's armor this week. On the back of their papers, have them draw a picture or write about a time God protected them.

Affirmation/Declaration:
I don't fear because God protects me.
God gives me powerful weapons, and I'm not afraid to use them.
I love using the powerful weapon—the name of Jesus.

Make Connections:

Biblical Worldview Connection:
Most people trust in themselves, government, and products to protect them from evil, sickness, and dangers. When we trust God's protection, we can show God's power and miracles through protection that can't be seen with our eyes. Encourage the children to practice using the protection God has given them and to tell others about God's protection. Using the tools God gives shows we are living our biblical worldview.

Missions Connection:
God loved Daniel and cared about his protection, but his deliverance served a greater purpose—Darius decreed that all people fear and respect Daniel's God. Ultimately, God wants His name to be known so all people will worship Him. Pray for missionaries to be protected from the evil one so they can tell everyone about God and salvation through Jesus Christ. If you have current missionary newsletters, have the children pray for these missionaries and their specific needs.

Family Connection:
Have fun together making the armor of God with objects from around the house. For example, aluminum foil can turn a hat into the helmet of salvation. Be creative and use a computer to help you get pictures or ideas. Talk about how your child can use these for protection. Look online for children's sermons, games, or songs about the armor of God. Share ways you have used these pieces of protection. Each day, let family members share which pieces of God's armor they used.

Prayer Points:
Have the children gather in small prayer groups with a helper in each group. Encourage them to talk about things this week that they might need protection for or from. Allow time for the children to pray for each other and their requests. Point out promises from God that will help them.

Name _____

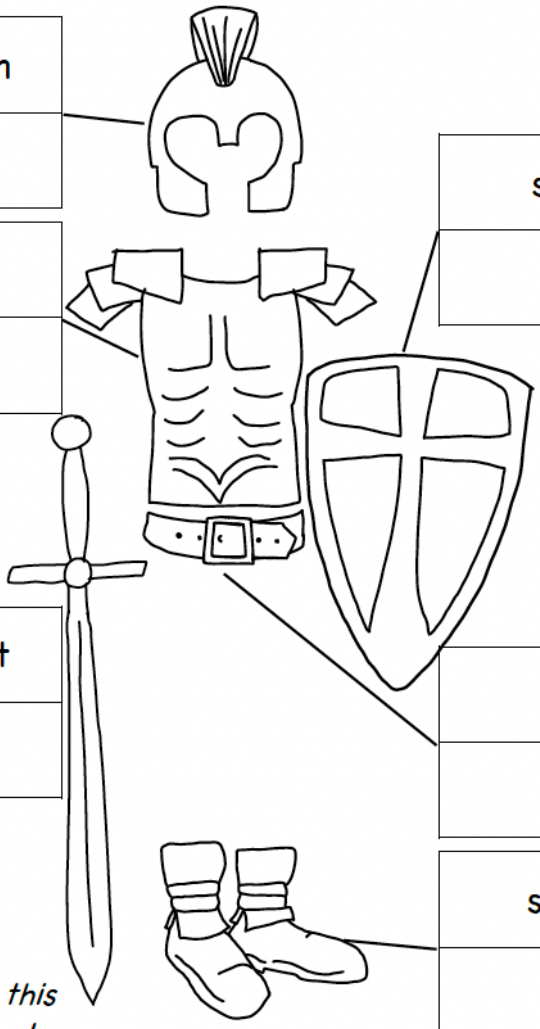
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God's armor protects, but you need to use it! *Cut and match each statement to the correct piece of God's armor. Draw yourself in the picture wearing the armor.*

helmet of salvation

breastplate of righteousness

sword of the Spirit



shield of faith

belt of truth

shoes of peace

BONUS: *On the back of this page, draw or write about a time when God protected you.*

cut here

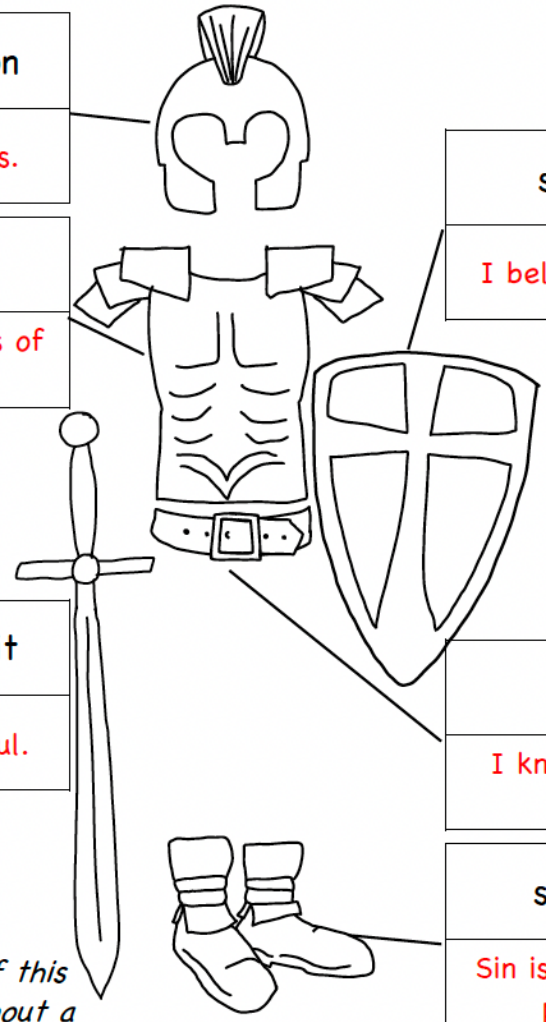
"Jesus forgave my sins."	"I believe God's promises."	"Sin is paid for and I have peace with God."
"I am the righteousness of Christ."	"God's Word is powerful."	"I know God's truth and speak it."

ANSWERS:

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God's armor protects, but you need to use it! *Cut and match each statement to the correct piece of God's armor. Draw yourself in the picture wearing the armor.*

helmet of salvation	Jesus forgave my sins.
breastplate of righteousness	I am the righteousness of Christ.
sword of the Spirit	God's Word is powerful.
shield of faith	I believe God's promises.
belt of truth	I know God's truth and speak it.
shoes of peace	Sin is paid for and I have peace with God.



BONUS: *On the back of this page, draw or write about a time when God protected you.*

cut here

"Jesus forgave my sins."	"I believe God's promises."	"Sin is paid for and I have peace with God."
"I am the righteousness of Christ."	"God's Word is powerful."	"I know God's truth and speak it."

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