

Family Devotional

From August 21, 2016

Create: Gather whatever craft supplies you have around and like to use: cardboard, empty cereal boxes, tape, construction paper, markers, crayons etc. Together create pieces of armor: A helmet, breastplate, sword, belt, shoes, etc. don't feel like each person has to make a complete set or have every piece represented. Create in whatever way your family enjoys. Once you are done, read the following passage and have people hold up their pieces of armor as you name them.

Read: Ephesians 6:10-17

Reflect: Why does Paul tell us it is important to put on the Armor of God? (Verse 11)

Who is our battle against? (Verse 12)

Do you think Paul is saying we should wear physical armor over our clothes every day?

Just like our battle is not again physical enemies that we see with our eyes, our armor is not a visible armor, but an invisible armor that protects our hearts and minds.

Let's look at a couple of pieces:

What does a helmet protect?

The Helmet of Salvation protects our mind. When we know that we have been saved by Jesus and look to him for our worth, it is much easier to fend off the lies the enemy tries to throw our way.

What about shoes, why is it important to wear shoes?

Shoes help protect our feet and make sure we can keep going. We have been given an important message the Gospel of Peace, so when we "put on the shoes of the Gospel of Peace" we know we are ready to go and share this great message with others we meet.

Now what about a sword? What is it used for?

The sword not only protects you but it is also attacks the enemy. What does this passage say our sword is? (Verse 17)

Do you think great warriors just picked up a sword one day and were instantly professionals at it? What does it take to become good at something?

That is why it is important for us to be reading and learning scripture everyday not just when things are rough. When we memorize and meditate on scripture it sinks down deep in hearts, building a strong foundation of truth and the knowledge of who God is. Then when we face hard times or the enemy tries to attack us with lies, we can go back to God's word we have hidden in our hearts and say, "NO! I am a child of God protected by the king!"

Remember: As a family work on memorizing/mediating on Hebrews 4:12a

"For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword..."

Ideas: Write this passage down and hang it on the refrigerator. Say it together as a family during meal time each day. Write it on a chalk or white board and erase a couple of words each day until you can say it by memory.

Respond: "Dear Jesus, thank you for giving us the tools we need to fight the battles that come our way. Most of all, thank you for always standing with us. Help us to put on your armor and learn your words.....Amen!"

Awana is a Bible based children's program that focuses on helping families learn scripture in fun, age appropriate ways. Awana is the children's component of Wednesday Night Downtown programming and is for children 3 years old through 5th grade. Learn more at firstchurchtulsa.org/awana.