

Junior Soldier Rally

God's Armor (New International Readers Version)

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¹³ 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.

¹⁴ So stand firm. Put the belt of truth around your waist. Put the armor of godliness on your chest. ¹⁵ Wear on your feet what will prepare you to tell the good news of peace. ¹⁶ Also, pick up the shield of faith. With it you can put out all of the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷ Put on the helmet of salvation. And take the sword of the Holy Spirit. The sword is God's word.

¹⁸ At all times, pray by the power of the Spirit. Pray all kinds of prayers. Be watchful, so that you can pray. Always keep on praying for all of God's people.

8:40	Worship Band begins preliminary music
8:45	Praise and Worship begins as Junior Soldiers arrive and are seated.
9:00 – 9:15	Welcome, explanation of theme and introduction of guests, playing of armor video
9:15 – 9:19	Explanation of audio/video signals that will be used to signal transition time, and movement to Session I
9:20 – 9:40	Session I
9:41 – 9:44	Travel
9:45 – 10:05	Session II
10:06-10:09	Travel
10:10 – 10:35	Session III and Snack
10:36 – 10:39	Travel
10:40 – 11:00	Session IV
11:01 – 11:04	Travel
11:05 – 11:25	Session V
11:26 – 11:29	Travel
11:30 – 11:40	Assemble and 2 choruses
11:40 – 11:45	Shield Devotional
11:45 – 11:55	SWORD of the Spirit – recite the Bible Passage
11:55 – noon	Closing chorus and Benediction
12:00 – 12:15	Parents/Guardians pick up Junior Soldiers Worship Band leads choruses until all the kids are gone, or 12:15. At 12:15 all remaining children are moved out to the registration area so that the room can be packed up.

Opening Session

Welcome & Opening: Show video explaining theme.

Today we are going to learn about the Armor of God. In Ephesians 6:10-13 we are told:

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Armor is our protection from the world around us. In the Bible they use the example of a soldier who puts on his armor before going into battle to keep him safe. Armor comes in all shapes and sizes.

When a fire man is getting ready to fight a fire what does he do?

He puts on all of his equipment; boots, jacket, pants, helmet,his Armor.

Why does he do this?

To shield him from the flames.....To protect him.....So that he can stand strong and do his Job.

As Jr. Soldiers we need to do the same thing - we need to put on the armor of God to keep us from the devils schemes. What is the armor of God?

- Shield of Faith
- Helmet of Salvation
- Shoes of the Gospel
- Sword of the Spirit (Bible)
- Belt of Truth
- Breastplate

At each of the stations you will meet someone with a different kind of armor.

As you go around to each of the stations you will be taking Flat Sally or Sam with you. And as you learn about armor you will get to add that piece of Jr. Soldier Armor to them.

Play the song "Mighty God" to show what to listen for as the musical cue to close the session and move to the next one.

Time Line: 20 min (Each station will do this five times.)

- Station leader will welcome the group and introduce the guest showing their armor.
- The guest will have 10 min to show their armor.
- The leader doing the devotional part will have 10 minutes to do so.
- The station leader will have 10 min for the devotional and giving out the piece of armor for "Flat Sally/Flat Sam.

Station 1 Shoes of the Gospel of Peace.....Dancers

Station Leader:

Dancers:



¹⁴ So stand firm. Put the belt of truth around your waist. Put the armor of godliness on your chest. ¹⁵ **Wear on your feet what will prepare you to tell the good news of peace.** ¹⁶ Also, pick up the shield of faith. With it you can put out all of the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷ Put on the helmet of salvation. And take the sword of the Holy Spirit. The sword is God's word.

Devotional:

Dancers wear shoes that go with the type of dancing they do. A Ballerina would wear ballet slippers or toe shoes. A tap dancer would need to wear tap shoes. A Ballroom dancer would wear high heels or dress shoes. Our dancers today are wearing what kind of shoes? Would a football player go out to the field with ballet slippers? No!.....Why?..... Our shoes get us ready for what we are going to do which is why our scripture says that we need to be fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. We need to be ready to share Gods word the gospel of peace.

Have you ever put on a pair of new shoes and felt that you could run faster and jump higher? Shoes make a difference! A football player would never run onto the playing field wearing sandals, and a basketball player would never jog down the court wearing cleats. Instead athletes wear shoes that support them and make them ready to play the game ahead.

Items Needed -

a variety of shoes (such as sandals, snow boots, cowboy boots, running shoes, cleats, swim fins, etc)

Put out the shoes for the kids to see and then ask them to decide who would wear the different pairs of shoes, and how would they help that person.

Ask a few volunteers to put on the shoes and ask them tell who he or she is and how the shoes help. For example, a child wearing snow boots could say, "I'm a girl getting ready to play in the snow, and these boots will protect my feet from the cold," or a child wearing cleats could say, "I'm a football player and these shoes will help my feet grip the ground so I can run faster."

Ask: the following questions:

*What would happen to your person if he or she couldn't wear these shoes?

*If you don't have your shoes on, are you ready for school? For playing a sport? For hiking over rocky ground? Why or why not?

*If you were going hiking over sharp rocks and discovered you'd forgotten your shoes, would you feel worried or feel peaceful? Why?

Shoes help us to be ready for different activities. They protect our feet from rain and snow, and from hot pavement or sharp objects. Special shoes give us support for specific tasks like running, fishing, swimming, or climbing rocks. God also has special shoes for us to wear. Ephesians 6:15 tells us to have our "feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace." These shoes help us be ready to share God's love and peace.

Flat Sam/Sally Armor to be given: Shoes

Station 2 Breastplate of Righteousness.....Fencers

Station Leader:

Fencers:



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Devotional:

Why do the fencers wear the breastplate? It protects them so that they don't get hurt. The breastplate covers the heart, lungs,all the vital organs that we need to live. It stops the enemy's sword. It keeps us safe. God will not let the Devil destroy His children, He protects our hearts. We do not have to listen to the Devil when he says to us that we are not loved and not good enough. Those are lies. If we have faith in God our faith will help us to remember that we are loved. It protects our heart from the hurt that the devils lies cause us.

Items Needed: Poster board cut into breastplates with the words "I Trust in Jesus" on them, markers, two lg. paper hearts, masking tape, paper towel or gift wrap tubes cut into 12inch sections.

Ask: *What are some things that people say that hurt our feelings?

*What are some things people say that make us feel unloved?

*Write these things on the cardboard tubes.

Have a volunteer tape a heart to their chest and stand in the front of the group.

Say: When people say or do mean things to us, it can feel like being wounded in the heart. These tubes are like hurtful swords. I am going to have two volunteers hold the tubes and when I say they will try to touch the heart that our friend is wearing. The person with the heart can use his hands to block them but can not move away.

Ask: *How did it feel to get attacked by the swords?

*How do you feel when someone says or does something to you?

*How did you feel when you saw the person with the heart get attacked?

*How do you feel when you say or do something to that hurts someone else?

Now Have the person wearing the heart wear the breastplate and do the activity again.

Ask: What happened this time?

*Were they able to hurt the heart?

*If these tubes were really hurtful things instead of cardboard how would the breastplate helped our volunteers?

Say: Sometimes things happen to make us feel hurt or not any good. The Devil tries to use those feelings to make us doubt God's love. But God is more powerful and designed out armor to protect us. God gave us the breastplate of righteousness to protect our hearts. When we have faith in God we know that he dose love us and it helps to protect our hearts.

Flat Sam/Sally Armor to be given: Breastplate

Station 3 Helmet of Salvation.....Fireman

Station Leader:

Firemen:



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Devotional:

Helmet of Salvation

The piece of armor that we are learning about is the "helmet of salvation."

Ask: Why do the firemen wear their helmets? It protects them from getting burned by the fire; it protects them from falling debris; splashing; covers their neck and face; smoke; works with the other parts to keep them safe; provides identity.

Ask: Why would we need to wear a helmet? Let the children respond with activities that involve a helmet – i.e. motorcycle, football, batting

Ask: What job does this hat do? Let's look at some hats and see if they will be a good helmet for a fireman. Ask a few kids to try on one of the hats/caps, or put them on yourself.

Hats: cowboy, chef's hat, baseball cap, army hat.

Ask: Can you identify someone based on the hat they are wearing? When is the hat a costume and not armor? You can put on a baseball cap, but it doesn't make you a baseball player.

The helmet of salvation is never a costume – something worn for appearances. It is the part of the armor that protects our mind, our thoughts. Romans 12:2 says "and do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind..." We have confidence in the Lord's ability to save us. We know we don't have to earn or work for salvation. It's a done deal – Christ died to save us. So we strap on the helmet of salvation to remember it's His work, not our own.

Flat Sally Armor to be given: Helmet

Station 4 Belt of Truth.....Karate

Station Leader:

Karate:



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Devotional:

In Karate the belt is important it tells us about how far the person has progressed what level they are at. When we dress belts are important because they hold our clothing up. In armor the belt is important because it stands for truth which is key to holding our armor together. Truth is an important part of our faith because if we depend on God's word to guide us then we are following the truth. And in a world where the world is telling us so many different things we need to know the truth, and it can be found in God's word.

Because God's word is true, we can depend on it to guide us. And just as a belt holds up an important part of our wardrobe, the belt of truth holds us up spiritually, keeping our armor in place and it holds our faith together. With this belt wrapped snugly about us, we can make good choices and remain strong in our faith.

Items Needed - a pair of oversized men's pants with belt loops & belt that can be written on
Marker, Paper, masking tape (or 4x6 post it notes)

Prepare by writing "God's Word" in bold letters on the belt. Keep belt out of sight until used in illustration.

Have one child try on the pants over the clothes. Point out that these pants will not stay up without the help of a belt - they'll just keep falling down!

Have an adult helper put on the pants over his or her clothes. Show kids the belt and what you've written on it, then put the belt through the loops on the pants and have the helper secure the belt.

Say: [Name of person wearing pants] really wants to keep these pants on! But heavy things keep tugging at the pants, trying to pull them off. The things that tug at them are lies. Let's see if God's Word is strong enough to keep these lies from tugging off the pants.

Have kids call out lies that might hurt them or make them feel afraid. Guide children toward lies that children might believe about themselves or the world around them. These might be silly lies ("There are monsters under your bed") or serious lies ("You're not important").

As children call out various lies, write these on pieces of paper and tape them to the legs of the pants. As children call out their suggestions, suggest and write these lies as well:

You're not important.....It's OK to say bad or mean words.

No one loves you.You're all alone in this world

When the pants are covered with lies, give a few gentle tugs on the legs of the pants.

Say: These lies are heavy, and they sure do weigh down these pants. But the belt of truth is holding firm. **"Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist,"**

Flat Sam/Sally Armor to be given: Belt of Truth

Station 5 Sword of the Spirit.....Spoken Word
Station Leader:
Spoken Word:



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The Junior Soldiers will learn to recite the Armor of God passage.

Flat Sally Armor to be given: Bible

Closing Session

11:30 – 11:35 –Worship Band leads 2 choruses as the delegates assemble back at their section in Station 6. (*They will remain at Station 6 until their parent/guardian picks them up.*)

Today we learned about the armor of God:

- Shield of Faith
- Helmet of Salvation
- Shoes of the Gospel
- Sword of the Spirit (Bible)
- Belt of Truth
- Breastplate of Righteousness

As you went around to each of the stations you learned about real life armor.

11:35 – 11:40 – Shield Lesson

11:40 – 11:55 – the Junior Soldiers will the recite the scripture passage.

11:55 – Benediction “The Warriors Prayer”

Worship Band leads 2 choruses as the Junior Soldiers leave with their parents. If any children remain, the video “Every Move I Make” will play.



Ephesians 6:10-13:

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Devotion:

Isn't it a fact of life that our faith will be tested.? There will be battles with the enemy; and the battlefield can just as easily be a child's playground, school bus, or cafeteria as it can be any adult forum. The Bible not only acknowledges that we will face battles, but it also provides us with the tools we need in order to win.

One of those tools is the shield of faith. Faith helps us hold up under pressure. It helps us recall times when God has helped us in the past and gives us assurance that he will be there for us in the future. Faith can bring to mind Bible passages that will encourage and renew our hearts and mind. Faith can ultimately block the arrows Satan throws at us. By remaining firm in our faith we can thwart Satan and emerge victorious. Use this lesson to instill in kids the confidence that their faith can hold firm—that they, too, can be victorious in battle.

Flat Sally Armor to be given: Shield

PUTTING ON THE WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD THE WARRIOR'S PRAYER

Heavenly Father,

Your Warriors Prepare For Battle.

Today We Claim Victory Over Satan By Putting On The Whole Armor Of God!

We Put On The Girdle Of Truth!

May We Stand Firm In The Truth Of Your Word So We Will Not Be A Victim Of Satan's Lies.

We Put On The Breastplate Of Righteousness!

May It Guard Our Heart From Evil So We Will Remain Pure And Holy, Protected Under The Blood Of Jesus Christ.

We Put On The Shoes Of Peace!

May We Stand Firm In The Good News Of The Gospel So Your Peace Will Shine Through US And We Will Be A Light To All We Encounter.

We Take The Shield Of Faith!

May We Be Ready For Satan's Fiery Darts Of Doubt Denial And Deceit So We Will Not Be Vulnerable To Spiritual Defeat.

We Put On The Helmet Of Salvation!

May We Keep Our Minds Focused On You So Satan Will Not Have A Stronghold On Our Thoughts.

We Take The Sword Of The Spirit!

May The Two-Edged Sword Of Your Word Be Ready In Our Hands So We Can Expose The Tempting Words Of Satan.

By Faith Your Warrior Has Put On The Whole Armor Of God!

We Are Prepared To Live This Day In Spiritual Victory!

Amen

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Dr. David Jeremiah from his book, *Spiritual Warfare*, based on Ephesians, chapter 6
(adapted for Junior Soldier Rally 2009)