

Story: Armor of God 1

SUPPLIES NEEDED

You will need the following:

12 Sheets of [Cardstock](#) (8.5" x 11")

12 3 mil Laminating [Film](#)

DIRECTIONS

- Print pages 2-13 two-sided. Laminate the story pages.
- Print pages 14-25 two-sided. Cut the "letters" along the gray line. Laminate all the letters and cut them apart.
- As students arrive, give them a few letters and ask them to look up the verses and fill in the blanks using a transparency (wet erase) marker.
- During class, read the story while holding up the pictures. When you come to the verses in the lesson, have the students take turns reading their "letters." At the end of class, they should put their "letters" in the correct "mailbox" (see Epistles Mailbox Bulletin Board).

Illustrations courtesy of Ian & Sue Coate
www.freechristianillustrations.com

Illustrations courtesy of Aya & Nicole Velasquez
www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/anv-christian-armor/

Clip Art: Laura Strickland
<http://www.whimsyclips.com/>

The Lord's Army



Before holding up picture:

What did we learn last time? *(The Fruits of the Spirit: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Faithfulness, Goodness, Gentleness, and Self-Control)*

Hold up picture:

Did you know that the Bible compares Christians to soldiers? *(Maybe)* It's true! Paul told Timothy to "endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ." (2 Tim. 2:3) Also, Paul called Epaphroditus and Archippus "fellow soldiers." (Phil. 2:25; Phile. 2) Paul also refers to the life of a Christian as "warfare" in 2 Cor. 10:3-4 and 1 Tim. 1:18.

As Christians, we are in the Lord's Army. Have you sung that song before? *(Yes)* If we are in the Lord's Army, who is our enemy? *(The devil, Satan)* Where does this battle take place? *(In our hearts / spirits / minds)* That's right, every day we are in a spiritual battle not a physical battle with the devil. In order to defeat our enemy, we need to learn a little about him first. So, let's see what the Bible says about Satan...

SATAN



Hold up the picture:

How many names do you think the devil has? *(Many)* You've probably heard him called Satan, Lucifer, or the Antichrist; but let's look at a few more names the Bible calls him. I will read the first two from Matthew and John:

Matt. 4:3 – And the **tempter** came and said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread.”

John 8:44 – You are of your father the **devil**, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a **murderer** from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a **liar** and the **father of lies**.

Let the students take turns reading the “letters” (NASB):

1 John 3:11-12 – For this is the message which you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another; not as Cain, who was of **the evil one** and slew his brother...

Rev. 12:9 - And the great **dragon** was thrown down, the **serpent** of old who is called the **devil** and **Satan**, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.

Ask / Discuss:

There are several others in the Bible, but I think that's enough to give you an idea of Satan's character. Is Satan someone we should trust or want to join sides with? *(No)*

SATAN



Hold up the picture:

Now think back to the Garden of Eden. How did Satan appear to Eve? *(As a serpent)* So, from that we know that the devil can disguise himself. Let's read some verses that tells us what tricks the devil uses.

Let the students take turns reading the "letters" (NASB):

Eph. 6:11 – Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.

Eph. 6:16 - in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.

2 Cor. 11:14 - No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.

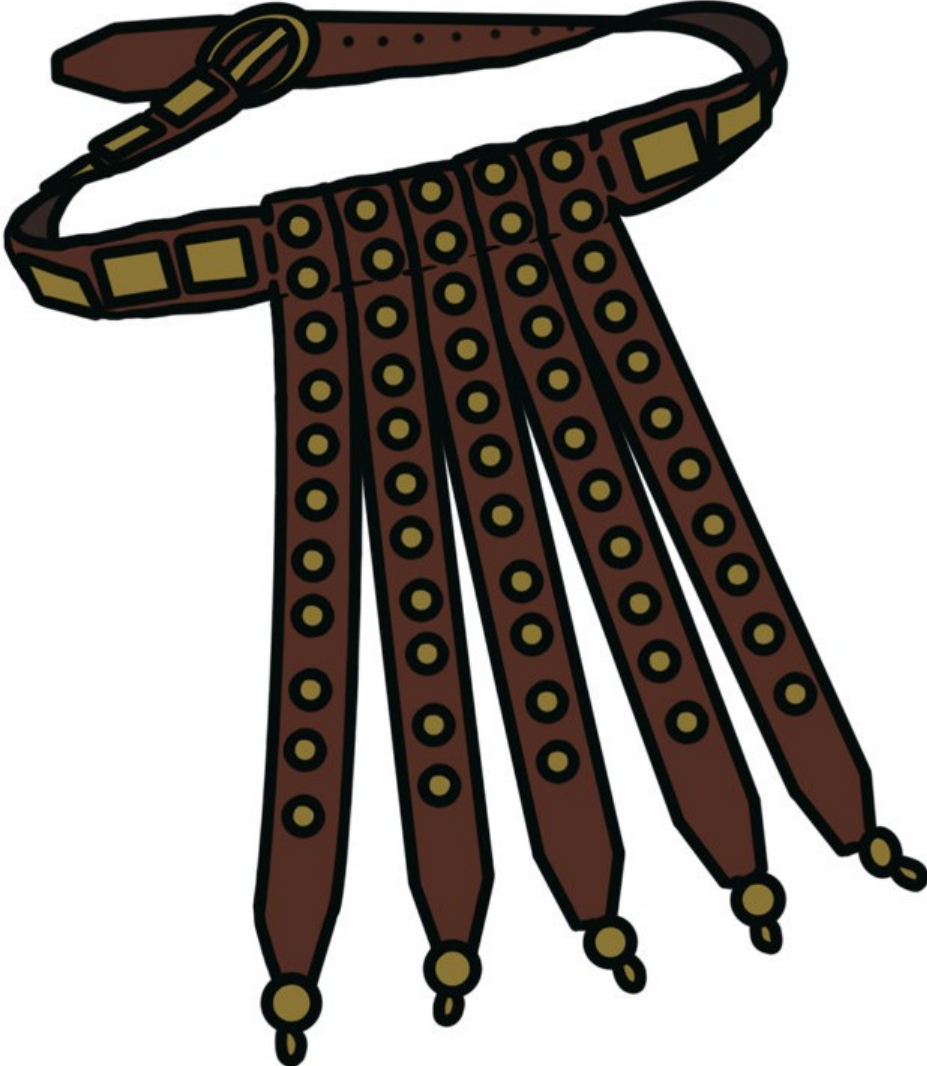
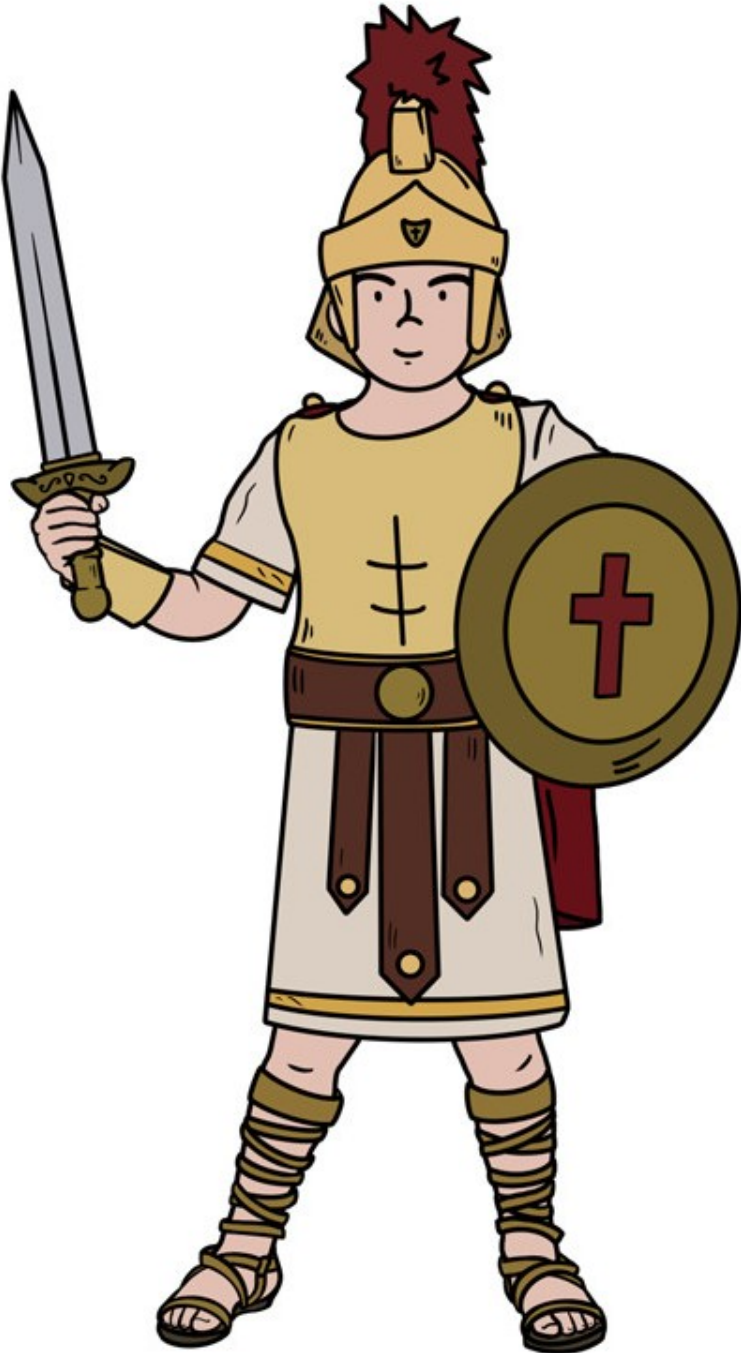
2 Tim. 2:26 - ...and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.

1 Pet. 5:8 - Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

Ask / Discuss:

What does the word "scheme" mean? *(A clever and often dishonest plan; a trick)* The devil is full of tricks, fiery arrows, snares or traps, and he can even appear like an angel. That's pretty scary isn't it? *(Yes)* The devil wants to devour us like a lion, so what does Peter tell us to be? *(Sober and on alert)* Now that we know about our enemy, we need to prepare ourselves for battle.

BELT



Hold up the picture:

God has given us special armor to protect ourselves and the necessary weapons with which to fight. Paul was writing during the time of the Roman Empire; therefore, he compares the Armor of God with a Roman soldier's armor. The first piece of armor mentioned is the Belt of Truth. Let's read about it.

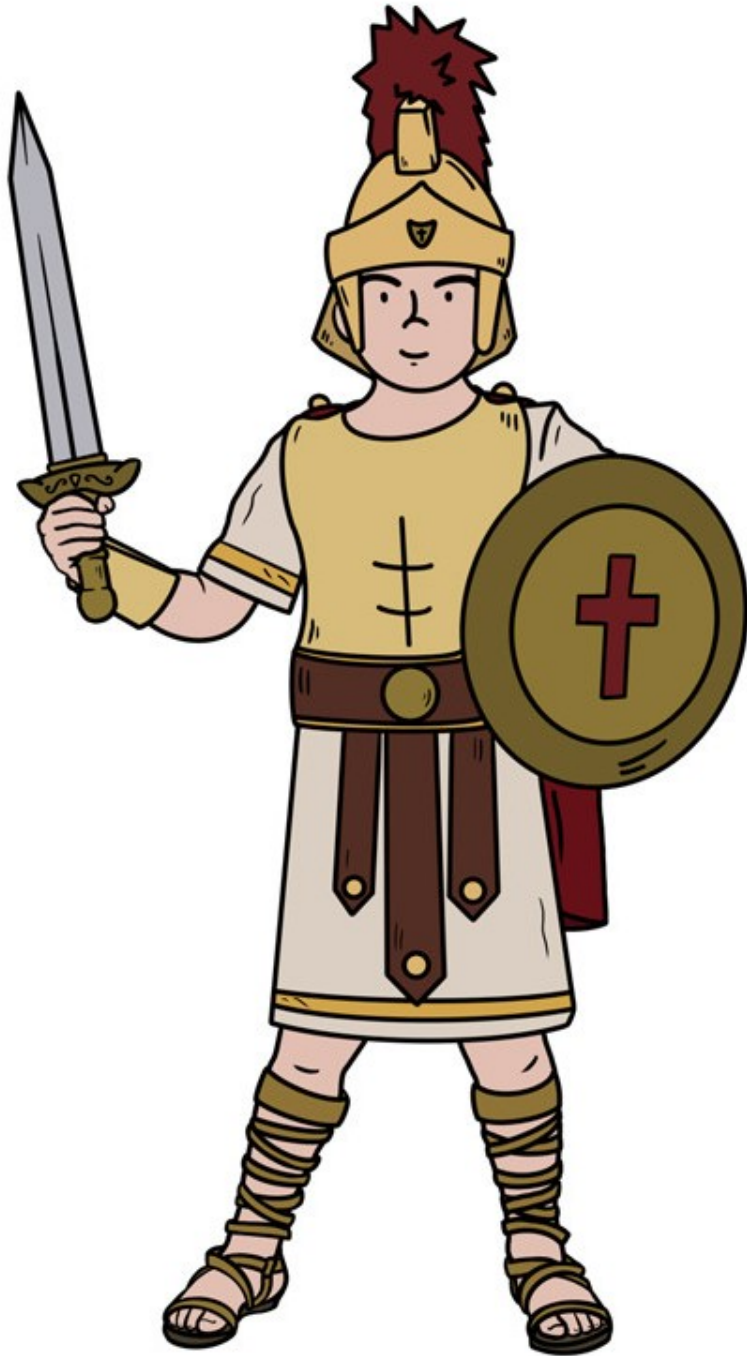
Let the students take turns reading the "letters" (NASB):

Eph. 6:13-14a - Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand firm therefore, having girded your loins with truth...

Ask / Discuss:

Why do we need the whole armor of God? *(To resist the devil and to stand firm)* The loins are the hips and lower abdomen. Girding the loins refers to gathering and tying up the long garments people wore in Biblical times. So this would be like a belt. It gives the impression that the Christian is about to do something difficult or to work hard. And how do we know what is truth? *(Answers may vary)* John 17:7 says, "Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth." So God's Word is Truth.

BREASTPLATE



Hold up picture:

The Roman breastplate was a piece of metal that covered all the vital (important) organs. Let's look at how the Bible describes the Christian's breastplate in Ephesians 6.

Let the students take turns reading the "letters" (NASB):

Eph. 6:14 - Stand firm therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness,

Rom. 1:16-17 - For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "But the righteous man shall live by faith."

1 Thess. 5:8 - But since we are of the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet, the hope of salvation.

Ask / Discuss:

Ephesians tells us the Christian's breastplate is of what? (*Righteousness*) And where is righteousness found according to Romans 1? (*In the gospel*) How does Paul describe the breastplate to the Thessalonians? (*Breastplate of faith and love*)

The Armor of God

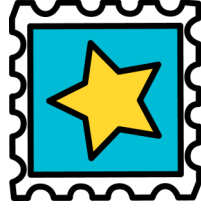


To Be Continued...

Hold up picture:

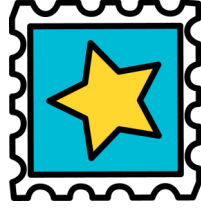
Let's review. Who is our enemy? (*Satan, the devil*) What is the devil trying to do to us? (*Trick us, devour us*) What type of battle are we in? (*Spiritual, Daily*) Name the first two pieces of armor that God has given us to resist the devil with. (*Belt of Truth, Breastplate of Righteousness*) We will learn the rest of the Armor of God next time.

From: John



To: The Christians
in Asia Minor

From: John



To: The Christians
in Asia Minor
(Revelations)

1 John 3:11-12

Yr 3 / Qtr 4 / Less 6a / #1

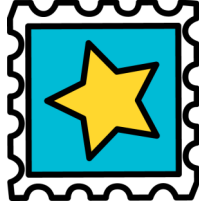
For this is the message which you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another; not as Cain, who was of the _____ one and slew his brother ...

Rev. 12:9

Yr 3 / Qtr 4 / Less 6a / #2

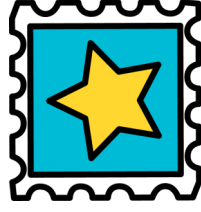
And the great _____ was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and _____, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.

From: Paul



To: The Ephesians

From: Paul



To: The Ephesians

EPH. 6:11

Yr 3 / Qtr 4 / Less 6a / #3

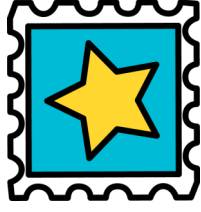
Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able
to stand firm against the _____ of
the devil.

EPH. 6:16

Yr 3 / Qtr 4 / Less 6a / #4

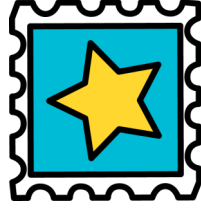
...in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with
which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming
_____ of the _____ one.

From: Paul



To: The Corinthians

From: Paul



To: Timothy

2 Cor. 11:14

Yr 3 / Qtr 4 / Less 6a / #5

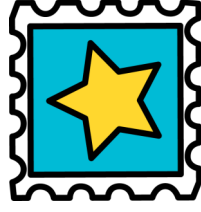
No wonder, for even _____ disguises himself
as an _____ of light.

2 Tim. 2:26

Yr 3 / Qtr 4 / Less 6a / #6

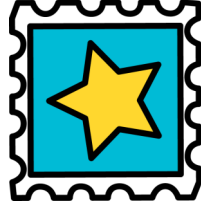
...and they may come to their senses and escape from
the _____ of the devil, having been held
_____ by him to do his will.

From: Peter



To: The Christians
in Asia Minor

From: Paul



To: The Ephesians

1 Peter 5:8

Yr 3 / Qtr 4 / Less 6a / #7

Be of sober spirit, be on the _____ . Your
adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring
_____, seeking someone to devour.

EPH. 6:13-14a

Yr 3 / Qtr 4 / Less 6a / #8

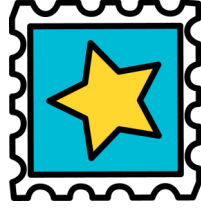
Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that
you will be able to _____ in the evil day, and
having done everything, to stand _____ .
Stand firm therefore, having girded your loins with
_____ ...

From: Paul



To: The Ephesians

From: Paul



To: The Romans

EPH. 6:14

Yr 3 / Qtr 4 / Less 6a / #9

Stand firm therefore, having girded your loins with
truth, and having put on the breastplate of

_____ ,

ROM. 1:16-17

Yr 3 / Qtr 4 / Less 6a / #10

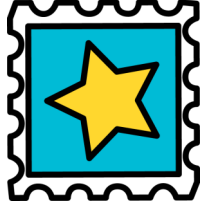
For I am not ashamed of the _____ , for
it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who
believes...For in it the righteousness of _____
is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written,
“But the righteous man shall live by faith.”

From: Paul



To: The Thessalonians

From:



To:

But since we are of the day, let us be sober, having
put on the breastplate of _____ and
_____, and as a helmet, the hope of salvation.