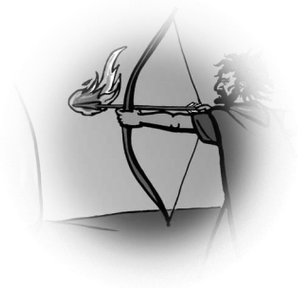
LESSON 24

A SOLDIER FOR GOD



Aim: **To show the children that God equips every Christian to triumph over evil.**

Scripture Reading: **Ephesians 6:10-18**

Memory Verse: **Ephesians 6:13**
[P]ut on the full armour of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground ...

PRESENTING THE LESSON

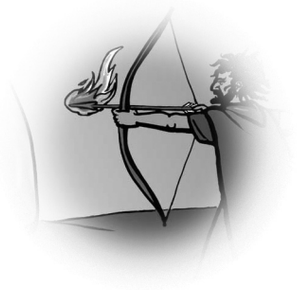
STARTING POINT

Everyone who lives in Juba, Southern Sudan, has seen the soldiers in the town. Children like to watch them marching on the parade grounds, and to run along beside the band when it plays.

MAIN POINTS OF THE LESSON

1. In the Bible there are many stories about soldiers. Joshua and Gideon both became soldiers and led the Israelites to freedom. Jesus calls us to be soldiers in the army of the Lord. But our armour and weapons are a little different from what soldiers normally have! That is because Christians serve the Prince of Peace; the enemy we have to fight is the unseen powers of evil (6:12-13).
2. **Show Picture 24.** This soldier is dressed like a Roman soldier from Jesus' time. We shall look at each part of his armour and see what it says about a Christian's struggle against evil (6:16).
3. The soldier in the picture is ready to face the danger. He has a **belt** around his waist to keep the whole of his armour in place, close to his body. The belt is difficult to spot in the picture, as it is hidden behind the arm. Point it out. The belt stands for **truth**. As Christian soldiers we must be truthful in what we say, and our deeds must show the truth of what we say. If a soldier or a Christian is thought to be pretending, to be playing at make-believe, nobody will trust them (6:13-14).
4. The **breastplate** protects the heart. When we think of the heart we think of love. Christian soldiers love their leader, God, and their neighbours. This means they **want to do what is right.** This breastplate protects them from letting evil desires into their hearts (6:14).
5. A soldier must have good **shoes.** He has to walk many kilometres. Wherever Christian soldiers go they must be ready to take **the gospel of peace.** This will make them stand firm; it will stop them from slipping into evil ways (6:15).
6. This soldier is holding up a **shield** to protect him from the enemy's arrows. The evil one shoots temptations at Christians like flaming arrows. The shield stands for **faith or trust in God,** which keeps us safe (6:16).

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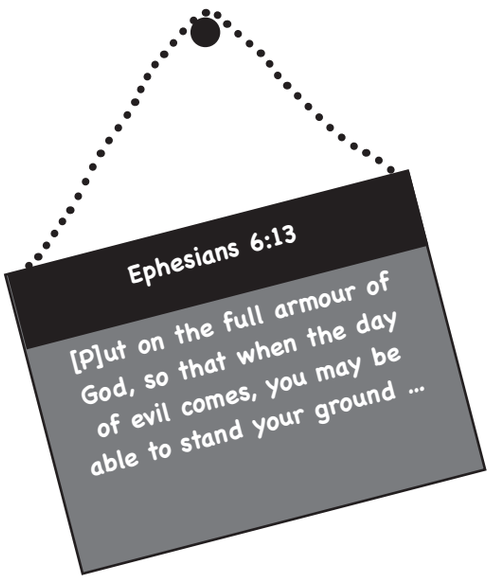
7. The soldier wears a **helmet** to protect his head. The brain, which exercises power over the whole body, is in the head. Through his death Jesus has saved us from the power of death. Like a helmet, our **salvation** protects our whole life from sin and death.
8. This soldier carries only one weapon, and that is all he needs because it is so powerful. The **sword** stands for what God teaches us through **his Spirit and his words.** As Christians we must read and know the Bible; then we will know the difference between Satan's lies and God's truth.

Our Response to the Story

Followers of Jesus Christ need to put on the armour that God has provided to let them triumph over evil.

If the class has a blackboard you can draw simple pictures of the Christian's armour, asking the children what each piece represents. Write the answer beside each picture.

Instil the Memory Verse



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