

Armor of God

January Family Activity

DUE: Tuesday, January 26, 2021

Student signature: _____

Parent signature: _____

Shield of Faith

Read Ephesians 6:10-19 in your Bible.

This month we are focusing on the shield of faith. The shield of faith has many important purposes. Think about a knight in shining armor and the small medieval shield they used in battle. Got that picture in your head? Well, that's not the type of shield that Paul was referring to when he wrote about taking up the shield of faith! Paul was talking about the Roman shield. It was called a scutum. The scutum was a BIG shield! It was three and half feet tall and three feet wide. This shield covered the warrior entirely and did much more than deflect sword blows. The shield for the soldiers had many roles it played in battle. Our own shield of faith has spiritual purposes in our lives.

Identify- The shield would often be painted with identifying marks so the opposing army would know whose side you were on. When you pick up a shield of faith, you make a stand that you belong to the Lord.

Guard- The shields were made out of wood and then covered with animal hide. The soldiers would wet the hide in water to protect themselves from the flaming arrows. The burning arrows would be snuffed out and not harm the soldier. The same principle applies with our shield of faith.

Deflect- The shield helped when being attacked but it also allowed soldiers to press forward into battle. The shield could knock the opponent backwards! We can use our shield of faith offensively and fight back and press forward to do what the Lord wants us to do.

Protect- When several shields were used, the better protection the group had. The soldiers would help protect the group by forming a barrier with their combined shields. When we all take up our shields of faith, we help other believers. Remember that it's called the shield of *FAITH*. Faith is complete trust or confidence in someone or something. That Someone is the Lord and that something is the Bible, God's word. Jesus is the author and perfecter of our faith. Our faith is our shield.

ACTIVITY and SUPPLIES:

Paper- Cut strips of paper and write on them temptations or situation that tempt us to lose our faith. Now, ball them up to use later. (You will be throwing these.)

Shield- Use anything in your house that you can build a “shield” from. It can be an old box, couch cushion, poster board. Decorate your shield however you want.

GAME INSTRUCTIONS:

Take turns to have family members throw the paper balls at the person holding the shield. Make sure to hide faces so the shield can protect the eyes.

Answer these questions as a family.

- 1. How can this activity remind us to use our spiritual shield of faith in our lives every day? (Elementary students- you or your parent can write the summary; Middle school- each student needs to write the summary.)**