

LESSON 5: THE ARMOR OF GOD: HELMET OF SALVATION

Leader Guide for Grades 1 & 2

Classroom: Rebecca Porter

 Ephesians 6:10-12, 17; Acts 16:25-40

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Teachers Dig In

Dig In to the Bible

- Read: Ephesians 6:10-12, 17; Acts 16:25-40
- In This Passage: Paul talks about the spiritual battle we're fighting against evil and tells us to wear the helmet of salvation. Even though they can get in trouble, Paul and Silas wear their "helmets" when they spread the good news about how Jesus can save people. They get thrown in jail, but God sends an earthquake to free them. Then, instead of escaping, they help their jailer put on *his* helmet of salvation!
- Bible Point: We fight evil with salvation.
- Summary Verse: "Therefore, put on every piece of God's armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm" (Ephesians 6:13).

Dig Deeper

- You'll Be Teaching: *We fight evil with salvation.* For kids who aren't as familiar with churchy language, *salvation* may be a hard word. Break it down simply for them! Make sure everyone understands how to put on the helmet of salvation.
- Think About: What's your story about putting on your helmet of salvation? Give God thanks for saving you.

Dig In to Prayer

- Ask God to stir the hearts of any kids who aren't wearing the helmet of salvation.

Quick Tip

- Different faith traditions have different ways of presenting the salvation message. Some churches will do an altar call, while others may wish to present the message but work with parents to have kids begin their faith journey. This lesson includes time for you to present the message of salvation as your church sees fit, so make sure you understand how your church would prefer you do that.

This Lesson at a Glance



CORE BIBLE DISCOVERY

Kids put on party hats to symbolize the people who joined Christianity and pretend to be in jail.

Supplies

- Bible
- party hats (1 per child, available at your local dollar discount store)
- chairs
- black permanent markers



OBJECT LESSON

Kids translate a coded message.

Supplies

- "Salvation Cipher" handout (1 per child) (download [here](#))
- pencils



CRAFT

Kids make chains that keeps doors from latching.

Supplies

- duct tape in a variety of colors
- scissors
- permanent markers (optional)
- rulers
- "Open-Door Chains Instructions" handout (download [here](#))

Easy Prep

- Make a sample craft to show kids.

**Marked supplies can be reused from Core Bible Discovery*

Let's keep kids safe! You can help by using supplies as instructed for only ages 3+, purchasing child-safe items, and being aware of allergy concerns.



Supplies

- Bible
- party hats (1 per child, available at your local dollar discount store)
- chairs
- black permanent markers

Tip

- This experience is written to accommodate any number of kids! If you have fewer than 10 kids, you may wish to have some kids play multiple roles by putting on more than one party hat. The nice thing about the hats is they stack easily!

Spread the News

Say: **Today we're learning that we fight evil with salvation. We're in a battle! But it's not against people. Listen to this.**

Read Ephesians 6:10-12.

Say: **Yikes! Unseen powers? That sounds scary. But we're not in it alone—we have God on our side, and he gives us armor to wear. That includes a helmet of salvation. *Salvation* means being friends with Jesus.**

Read Ephesians 6:17.

Say: **We don't need to be scared in this battle, because God's side is the winning side! And we fight evil with salvation. That's just what Paul and Silas did in the Bible. They knew and loved Jesus, so they had on their helmets of salvation. *Salvation* means Jesus is your friend and saved you from your sins.**

Choose two kids to play the roles of Paul and Silas, and have them put on party hats as helmets.

Say: **Paul and Silas were missionaries, which means they traveled around telling everyone about Jesus. Let's hear about part of their journey.**

Read Acts 16:4-5.

Say: **How cool! The church grew larger every day! That means more and more people were putting on their helmets of salvation.**

Have another child put on a party hat.

Ask: • **Talk about people who've told you about Jesus.** Share your own story first.

Say: **Then they went to Macedonia after Paul had a vision where a man from Macedonia asked him to help them. So Paul and Silas went to Macedonia and told *more* people about Jesus.**

Have another child put on a party hat.

Say: **Next Paul and Silas went to Philippi and met a woman named Lydia. And check this out!**

Read Acts 16:14.

Say: **Lydia put on the helmet of salvation too!**

Have a child pretend to be Lydia and put on a party hat.

Say: **Then one day, Paul and Silas healed a girl even though she was doing some dangerous things. They healed her with Jesus' power! The Bible doesn't tell us for sure, but maybe *she* put on a helmet of salvation, too.**

Have another child pretend to be the girl and put on a party hat.

Say: **People got mad at Paul and Silas for healing the girl. In fact, there were people who were mad at them just for telling about Jesus! *That's* the evil they were fighting—the people trying to stop the message of Jesus from spreading.**

Go to Jail

Say: **Which brings us to today's story: They got in trouble and were thrown in jail for what they'd done.**

Have each child sit behind a chair and peer through the legs of the chair as if they're prison bars.

Say: **While they were in jail, Paul and Silas sang hymns to God.**

Lead kids in singing a familiar song, such as “Jesus Loves Me” or a song you’ve been using if you use the Music Video activity block.

Say: **Listen to what the other prisoners did while they sang.**

Read Acts 16:25.

Ask: • **What did you notice the other prisoners doing?**

Say: **They were listening! Maybe some of them put on helmets of salvation! But the story gets better; listen to this.**

Read Acts 16:26.

Have kids shake their chairs to make an earthquake.

Ask: • **If you were in prison unfairly and an earthquake made the doors fly open, what would you do?**

Say: **Most of us would escape from prison! But that’s not what Paul and Silas did. Why? Because they found someone else who needed the helmet of salvation!**

Read Acts 16:27-31.

Say: **And you know what? The jailer believed in Jesus!**

Have another child put on a party hat.

Say: **And so did his whole family!**

Have a few more kids put on party hats.

Say: **Then the jailer threw a party for Paul and Silas.**

Read Acts 16:34.

Say: **We fight evil with salvation. Paul and Silas led a lot of people to put on their helmets of salvation. And our helmets are party hats because salvation is something to celebrate!**

Have kids jump up and down and cheer.

Say: **After that, Paul and Silas got to travel around more and tell more people about Jesus. And the church kept growing as more people put on their helmets!**

If there are any children who still don’t have party hats, have them each put one on now.

Invite Kids to Wear Helmets

Say: **The Bible talks about salvation—being friends with Jesus and believing that he saved you from your sins—as a helmet.**

Ask: • **How is salvation like a helmet?**

Say: **There are a lot of ways salvation is like a helmet! But one thing you might not know about helmets in those times is that sometimes soldiers added decorations to identify which troop they were part of. It was kind of like how all the members of a sports team wear the same color jersey so you know which team each player is on.**

When we wear our helmets of salvation, we know which team we’re a part of—we’re on God’s team!

Have kids draw crosses on their party hats to show what “troop” they’re in.

Say: **Maybe you’ve heard all this talk about fighting evil with salvation, but you’re not sure if you’ve ever really put on the helmet of salvation. Maybe you want to!**

Following your faith tradition, invite kids into a friendship with Jesus and help them take the step to putting on their helmets of salvation.

**Supplies**

- “Salvation Cipher” handout (1 per child) (download [here](#))
- pencils

Figure Out the Key to a Cipher

Say: **We’ve learned that we have an evil enemy who doesn’t want us to be friends with God—which is called salvation. Our enemy wants to make us believe we have to do a whole bunch of things just right to be friends with God—like figuring out a code to salvation. Let’s see what it’s like to solve a cipher, or a message written in a coded language. To solve the cipher, you have to figure out the code.**

- Form leader-led groups of five or six, and give each person a “Salvation Cipher” handout and a pencil.
- With adult and teen helpers, kids can work in their groups to figure out the cipher and solve the puzzle.
- Allow kids time to work at it. Some struggle is good and will only help make the point.
- If time starts to run low, you can give kids some hints:
 - The groups of numbers below the wheel are actually words, and each number is attached to a letter.
 - Use the numbers on the wheel to identify which letters go in the boxes, one number at a time, and write the letters in the boxes under the numbers.
- When groups figure out the message, have them signal you by turning their handouts over and sitting with arms crossed.
- When time is up or when all groups have figured out the message, call attention back to yourself.

Talk About It

Say: **Ciphers have been used for hundreds of years to send important messages, and things kind of like ciphers are used to make languages and codes that make computers and websites work. Ciphers can be pretty simple or *really* complicated and almost impossible to figure out.**

Ask: • **What made the cipher you worked on hard or easy?**

• **What makes putting on the helmet of salvation hard or easy?**

Say: **God’s enemy wants to trick us into thinking salvation means figuring out some sort of code to being perfect, but salvation is *much* simpler than that! There’s no tricky code to figure out; salvation is believing in and loving Jesus. When we know that, then we can fight evil with salvation.**



Supplies

- duct tape in a variety of colors
- scissors
- permanent markers (optional)
- rulers
- “Open-Door Chains Instructions” handout (download [here](#))

Easy Prep

- Make a sample craft to show kids.



Make Chains That Keep a Door Open

Show kids the sample craft you made. Set out the supplies to share, and have adult and teen helpers lead kids through the directions on the “Open-Door Chains Instructions” handout to make chains that hold doors open.

- Cut a strip of duct tape that’s around 8 or 9 inches long.
- Fold the strip in half the long way and press the two sticky sides together, but at one end, leave about an inch open.
- Loop the strip to stick the sealed end into the open end, and then seal it.
- Repeat, looping each new strip of duct tape through the last one before sealing it to make a chain at least five links long.
- Make a separate chain that’s at least five links long.
- Cut a piece of duct tape that’s the width of the tape.
- Cut another piece of duct tape that’s the same size, and stick it to the back of the first piece.
- Cut slits on opposite sides of the duct tape square as shown so you can stick chain links through both sides.
- Using strips of duct tape that are each about 4 inches long, make two shorter chain links to go through the slits on both sides of the square. Loop each one into one of your existing chains.
- If time allows, use permanent markers to decorate the chain links. You could write the Bible point: We fight evil with salvation.

Try It Out

Say: **When Paul and Silas were in prison, they had chains on. Life before salvation is like being**

in prison with chains on, but our prison is sin and death. But Jesus came to open the door and set us free, just as he did for Paul and Silas. When we have the helmet of salvation because we're friends with Jesus, we're not in chains with sin anymore! And here's the cool thing about the chains you just made: They can keep a door from latching to remind you of how Jesus opened the door to set us free.

- Have kids try out their chains on the door to your classroom.
- They will link one chain on the doorknob on the inside and the other chain on the doorknob on the outside, keeping the chain as tight as possible. (The chain will probably loop around each doorknob with the links closest to the center. The extra loops will hang down to resemble a long chain.)
- When you try to close the door, it either won't close all the way or will close but not latch so it's easily pushed open.
- Make sure all the kids get a turn to try their chains on the door.

Talk About It

Ask: • **Earlier I said that life before salvation is like being in prison with chains on. What does that mean to you?**

- **How is salvation like being set free?**

Say: **Our unseen enemy wants to keep us in chains, prisoners of sin and temptation. But that's not what God wants! He sent Jesus to die for us so we could be freed from those chains. We're set free when we put on the helmet of salvation, and we fight evil with salvation.**

Have kids take their open-door chains home and use them when they want to keep a door from latching. If any kids don't have round doorknobs at home, they can connect the chain to another type of doorknob and something inside the room to keep the door open.