



LESSON SNAPSHOT

BOTTOM LINE:

Our salvation is our ultimate protection.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will say how becoming a Christian saves them from sin.

KEY PASSAGE:

Luke 23:31-43, The Crucifixion

MEMORY VERSE:

“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.”
Ephesians 6:13 (NirV)

Split the verse up into sections, as many as you have people in the group. Give each person a section to read or recite. See how well your group can read the verse together!

SUMMARY:

One of the most vital parts of any suit of armor is the one that protects our head. The helmet covers our heads in battle; the salvation that comes only from Jesus, protects us completely and makes us strong in him.

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Thank you for our salvation!

*In Jesus’ name,
Amen*



EASY AT HOME OBJECT LESSON

ITEMS NEEDED:

A bike helmet

Helmets are probably one of the most common pieces of armor and safety gear around. People wear helmets to play rough sports like football and hockey, and they put one on when they step to the plate in baseball. People who do construction and other dangerous jobs wear helmets. Soldiers, of course, wear helmets in combat. And if you're going out riding on a scooter, skateboard, rollerblades, or a bike, you better wear your helmet!

The helmet protects the head, one of the most important and fragile parts of the body. The helmet of salvation protects something even more precious: our soul.

God sent Jesus to die for us so he could give us salvation. If you are wearing the helmet of salvation, the enemy can't touch you. You are safe. Now, and for eternity.

Put on the helmet of salvation. Claim the gift God has offered you, and you will live forever with Jesus.



FAMILY GAME TIME

ON MY MIND

ITEMS NEEDED:

Two bike helmets with buckets attached to the top
Ping-pong balls

INSTRUCTIONS:

Choose two players for this game. Put a helmet on each one that has a bucket sitting on top. The players will race to see who can get four ping-pong balls into their bucket first by tossing them in the air and catching them in the bucket. They must have four balls in the bucket at the same time to win, so if they tip and accidentally lose some, they have to start over.

VARIATION:

This can also be a minute to win it game, with one player trying to get six balls into the bucket in one minute or less.

WHAT'S THE POINT?

The helmet of salvation protects us from sin and eternal death.



FAMILY BIBLE LESSON

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INTRO:

We're just past the half way point in our series in the full armor of God. We've put on the belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, the shoes of readiness that comes from the gospel of peace, and the shield of faith. Today, as we move on to the helmet of salvation, I want to ask a question we haven't posed yet. What is the purpose of wearing armor? Why did soldiers of the past gear up in suits of metal, and why do today's soldiers wear helmets and body armor into combat?

The answer is pretty simple. Every soldier who goes to battle wants to come home alive. Armor offers soldiers protection. It guards their bodies and their vital organs. It gives them defense against the weapons of the enemy.

Armor can go a long way to protecting soldiers from harm, but sadly, mankind has yet to invent an armor that is absolutely indestructible. Even with the best body armor, the best helmet, and the best armor surrounding soldiers in their vehicles, soldiers are hurt, wounded, and killed. The better we make our armor, the more destructive our weapons become. It's a never ending challenge to keep soldiers as safe as possible.

The armor of God is not like the armor Roman soldiers wore. You don't see pastors, Sunday School teachers, or every day Christians heading off to school in body armor. We'd look silly doing that, wouldn't we? No, as Paul said in Ephesians, our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against a spiritual enemy. You need a different kind of armor to keep yourself from getting harmed spiritually. Today's piece of armor is quite possibly the most important of all.

Paul says we are to put on the helmet of salvation. Salvation means that we have been saved from sin. We have accepted Jesus into our hearts, and we have become Christians.

FAMILY BIBLE LESSON

Salvation means that you're not partly protected; you are completely protected by the blood of Christ.

READ LUKE 23:31-43

MAIN POINT:

The world we live in is filled with sin. We are all born under a death sentence, and we are doomed to die because we are sinners. The Bible tells us that the price of sin is death, and that none of us can do anything on our own to pay that price.

That's why God sent Jesus to Earth. Jesus came to die in our place. He took the punishment of sin on himself, even though he never sinned. God gave him victory over death, and he gave him the power to extend that victory to anyone who believes in him, just as he did for the thief on the cross.

Salvation doesn't mean you might be safe. It means you ARE safe. You are saved, and there's nothing the devil can do to change that. He can kill your physical body, but your spirit belongs to God. When you have salvation, you are bound for paradise.

Salvation comes when we use our heads to choose to become followers of Christ. If we are saved, we are headed to Heaven. We are headed home, no matter what happens on Earth, because we belong to Jesus.

DRIVE IT HOME:

The head is one of the most fragile but vital parts of the body. Our brains are in our head, and that's the organ we use to make important choices. Soldiers must think on their feet in combat. We all make decisions every day that have consequences for our lives.

Whenever we go to ride our bikes, we make the choice to wear a helmet or not. When we play sports, we make a choice to wear safety gear. Construction workers make a choice to protect their heads with helmets, and so do professional athletes. With the helmet of salvation, Paul is challenging us to make one more important decision: the decision to choose Jesus.

The most important decision any of us will ever make is whether or not we want to accept Jesus as our Savior. God sent Jesus to do what we could not do. He became our shield and our protector against the eternal death that comes from sin. There is nothing we can do on our own to gain our salvation, but the Bible tells us if we place our faith in Jesus, he will give us the helmet of salvation freely.

Salvation means you are forgiven. It means your future is secure. You are God's child, and you are bound for Heaven.

FAMILY BIBLE LESSON

If you've never put on the helmet of salvation, let today be the day you armor up. God wants to give you Jesus, and he wants you to follow him to paradise!

CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Thank you for our salvation!

In Jesus' name,

Amen



FAMILY DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

ICEBREAKER:

What helmets do you have in the garage for playing outside?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read Luke 23:31-43

What does the helmet represent?

Why did Jesus die?

Who was crucified with Jesus?

What did Jesus tell the repentant thief?

How can we be saved from sin?

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Thank you for sending Jesus to save us.

In Jesus' name,

Amen



LESSON REVIEW GAME

FILL IN THE BLANK

Put on the helmet of _____.

SALVATION

Jesus came to save us from our _____.

SINS

Jesus was _____ between two thieves.

CRUCIFIED

When the one thief was sorry for his sins, Jesus said that thief would be with him in

_____.

PARADISE

If we believe in Jesus, we will receive eternal _____.

LIFE



CRAFT ACTIVITY

For this lesson, create a template for the helmet that the kids will cut out for their soldier. Have the kids trace and cut out their helmet and write “salvation” on them. Let them color and decorate the helmet as they see fit. You can also use the included template.



ARMOR OF GOD

