



## LESSON SNAPSHOT

**BOTTOM LINE:**

Faith can protect us when we feel attacked.

**OBJECTIVE:**

Kids will say they can pray when they feel tempted and rely on God to help them.

**KEY PASSAGE:**

Judges 7:1-22, Gideon Defeats the Midianites

**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)

Have the kids each recite or read the verse in the voice of their favorite cartoon character.

**SUMMARY:**

We all have times when we face spiritual attack. Through the power of our faith in God, we can defend against any attack that comes at us.

**SIMPLE PRAYER:**

*Dear God,*

*Give us faith when we are challenged, and help us overcome!*

*In Jesus' name,  
Amen*



## EASY AT HOME OBJECT LESSON

### ITEMS NEEDED:

An oven mitt

Have any of you ever helped Mom or Dad in the kitchen? Have you ever baked a cake, or muffins, or cookies? If you have, your parents might have let you use one of these. When you put a pan in the oven, that pan gets really hot while it bakes your food. You can't touch it with your bare hands because it will burn you. So you use an oven mitt to protect you.

A shield is one of a soldier's most important pieces of protection. For Christians our shield is faith. When we have a strong faith, we can resist any attack from the enemy. We can fight off temptation, discouragement, and just about anything the enemy dishes out. We can stand strong and fight for God because we know our faith protects us.

Take up the shield of faith, and God will protect you, no matter what the attack.



# FAMILY GAME TIME

## SHIELD THROWER

### ITEMS NEEDED:

Frisbees or paper plates  
Four orange cones or plastic cups

### INSTRUCTIONS:

Choose two players for this game. Set up four orange cones around the room in a circuit. Have the first player start at the first cone, and start the clock. The player must throw the frisbee at the orange cone until he or she hits the cone. Once he or she hits the first cone, they move on to the second, the third, and then the cone they started with. Mark down their time, and then see if the second player can top it.

Players will start from the first cone with their first toss, but after that, they throw from wherever the frisbee lands.

### VARIATION:

An alternate game would be to set up a target in the room and let 2-4 players try to throw their "shield" the closest.

### WHAT'S THE POINT?

The shield of faith can protect us from the enemy!



# FAMILY BIBLE LESSON

**BOTTOM LINE:**

Faith can protect us when we feel attacked.

**OBJECTIVE:**

Kids will say they can pray when they feel tempted and rely on God to help them.

**KEY PASSAGE:**

Judges 7:1-22, Gideon Defeats the Midianites

**INTRO:**

For the first three lessons of this series, we talked about pieces of armor that you wear on your body. We fastened the belt of truth around our waist. We put on the breastplate of righteousness, and we fitted our feet with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. These are all essential elements of personal armor for soldiers of today as well as soldiers of the past. Today, we're going to pick up a piece of armor that is not worn, but carried. It's a piece that has unfairly had a bad rap as a strictly defensive tool but is absolutely critical for defending ourselves from trouble. That piece of armor is the shield.

The Roman soldiers of Paul's time carried shields into battle. They were a useful defense against swords, arrows, and other weapons of the day. Over time, the shields carried by soldiers and then knights of yore became bigger, stronger - and heavier. They had to defend soldiers against bigger, stronger, and faster projectiles that could cause them harm.

Shields are a great defense, but if you think they are strictly a defensive weapon, you're wrong. Just look at Wonder Woman and Captain America to see what kind of offense a shield can do. True, you don't see soldiers throwing circular shields like these comic book heroes, but Captain America and Wonder Woman are not the first to use a shield as a weapon. You can slam a tall, heavy shield down on someone's foot. You can charge forward and use it as a battering ram. And you can deal a devastating blow to the head or body with a really strong shield.

Paul tells us the Armor of God includes the shield of faith. This shield requires us to put absolute trust in God to help us. Today's scripture is about a man who took a huge leap of faith leading Israel into battle. He was facing a much larger enemy army and going in woefully unarmed. As a matter of fact, his men didn't even have shields.

# FAMILY BIBLE LESSON

Let's look at how God saved Gideon and his men.

## **READ JUDGES 7:1-22**

### **MAIN POINT:**

God made Gideon demonstrate his faith several times in this story. Prior to chapter seven, God asked Gideon to leave his family and work behind to become the commander of God's army. Once he had an army and was ready to march, God asked him to take another leap, sending home most of his fighting men!

Gideon thought he was ready for battle, but God told him to cut his troops one more time down to only 300. Gideon had to wonder what God was up to, especially when God told him to take his men into battle armed only with trumpets, torches, and jars. Yet Gideon obeyed God, and God won the victory for him.

Gideon had great faith, and because of that faith, God gave him victory. God will give us victory over the attacks of our enemy as well. Whatever the attack, if we have the shield of faith, God will save us!

### **DRIVE IT HOME:**

The Armor of God is not real armor. We are not fighting a real war with real enemy soldiers carrying swords and wearing armor. Paul tells us that our fight is against a spiritual enemy, one that wants to deny us a chance to get to Heaven. If we are to defeat this enemy, we need supernatural weapons, and that's why Paul teaches us about the Armor of God.

Our enemy's attacks can come in the form of temptation. Maybe a friend asks you to do something you know is wrong. Maybe you see the chance to take something you want but you know it doesn't belong to you. Whatever the temptation may be, God can give you the power to say no. He can give you victory, and help you walk away unscathed.

Sometimes the attack isn't about getting us to sin. It's about keeping us from doing what God wants. Our enemy uses discouragement to try and stop us from praying, from going to church, from reading the Bible, or from telling someone about Jesus. The shield of faith can help us to defeat that enemy as well. God will protect us. He will save us from defeat.

When we feel like we are under attack, it can be overwhelming, but the good news is, God has seen it all before. There is no attack the Lord has not seen. There is no attack he cannot counter. If we have faith, God can move mountains. He can save you from temptation. He can save you from discouragement. He can give you victory.

Faith is the armor we need to defend ourselves against the enemy.

# FAMILY BIBLE LESSON

Ask the Lord to build up your faith, and get ready to claim your victory!

## **CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER:**

*Dear God,*

*Give us faith when we are challenged, and help us overcome!*

*In Jesus' name,*

*Amen*



# FAMILY DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

## ICEBREAKER:

Which shield would you rather have: Captain America's or Wonder Woman's?

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

**Read Judges 7:1-22**

What does the shield represent in the Armor of God?

What did God tell Gideon to do before going into battle?

How did Gideon's men "attack" the Midianites?

How did faith save Gideon and his men?

What should we do when we feel attacked by temptation or discouragement?

## SIMPLE PRAYER:

*Dear God,*

*Be our shield and protector when we are under attack.*

*In Jesus' name,*

*Amen*



## LESSON REVIEW GAME

### TRUE OR FALSE

God told Gideon he didn't have enough men to go into battle.

FALSE

Gideon led only 300 men to meet the Midianites.

TRUE

God gave Gideon victory because of his faith.

TRUE

God wants us to take care of ourselves when we are attacked.

FALSE

Faith can be our shield when we are tempted.

TRUE





## CRAFT ACTIVITY

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



# ARMOR OF GOD

