

SPIRITUAL WARFARE





WEEK 2

BIBLE STORY

Faith = Righteousness

Romans 4:1-5

PARABLE

Belt of Truth

TODAY'S TAKEAWAY

I am righteous because of my faith in God.

SERIES VERSE

Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Ephesians 6:14-17 NIV

WEEKLY VERSE

Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.

Matthew 6:33 NLT





WEEK 2

LARGE GROUP

SKIT INFORMATION

OVERVIEW

The skits will require two people. One person will play him or herself (the straight character), and the other person will play the funny character. It works best if you can find a person willing to commit to being the character for the entire series.

CHARACTER BIO

The character's name is Christian. This skit is written with a male in mind, but feel free to use a female for this character if desired. Christian is a young male character who loves video games. He has recently discovered a vintage video game from the past (Spiritual Warfare) and is obsessed with beating it. Each week Christian will collect a piece of the armor of God in his video game and learn about its importance in the "real world". Christian can be dressed in a video game t-shirt and a backwards hat, and he will always carry with him a device for playing video games.



WEEK 2

LARGE GROUP

SKIT

Leader: **Walks out.** I wonder if we will see that Christian kid today, or if his parents grounded him?

Christian: **Optional: have the lights go down and have the video game come up on the screen(s) as Christian comes out holding a controller and pretending to play the video game. You can also have Christian enter holding a phone or handheld video game, playing it.**

Leader: Well, I guess that answers my question! Hey Christian! Did you talk to your parents last week?

Christian: Uh-huh... Just give me a moment...

Leader: Are you beating another boss?

Christian: Not if you keep talking to me...

Leader: Oh sorry!

Christian: BOOM! Another piece of armor added to my collection, the breastplate of righteousness, whatever that is!

Leader: That's great! So you can actually talk to us now?

Christian: Yes of course! I'll pause my game just for you!

Leader: Thanks! I have a feeling that is a big deal for you. So, did you talk to your parents when you got home last week?

Christian: Yeah... it wasn't fun, but I told them how I lied and snuck out. They weren't too happy about it, but they did appreciate my honesty!

Leader: I'm proud of you for doing that. They do know you are here today, right?



WEEK 2

LARGE GROUP

Christian: Of course! I'm not going to make that mistake again. In fact, I've decided to make a huge list of things I can do around the house to make my parents think I'm a good kid. I am going to clean everything (even the toilets), make my parents' bed, wash the dishes, give my dog Snuffles a bath, mow the lawn...

Leader: **Interrupts Christian.** Wow, that is a really long list.

Christian: Well, I have to prove to my parents that I'm a good kid again!

Leader: I think you might be missing the point. Maybe you should just be a good kid. Good kids do nice things for their parents and help out around the house because it's the right thing to do, not to prove they are good kids.

Christian: Hmm. You might be on to something there. So, I guess I don't really need to do any of those things. I'll just tell my parents I'm a good kid and that will be good enough! Thanks for the help!

Runs off!

Leader: That wasn't exactly what I meant! **Shouting after Christian as they run off the stage.**



WEEK 2

LARGE GROUP

GAME: GUARD YOUR HEART

SUPPLIES

- 2 hearts (paper or toy)
- Cones or tape (to designate sides of the room)

SETUP

- Setup cones or tape in a line down the center of the room.

HOW TO PLAY

1. Everyone can play. Break the group into two teams and have them stand on either sides of the cones/tape.
2. Give each team a heart to guard on their side of the room. The kids cannot touch their own heart. They can only guard it.
3. Each team is trying to capture the other team's heart without being tagged. If a kid gets tagged, they must sit down. Other team members can tag kids back in by tapping them.
4. The game is over when one team captures the other team's heart and brings it back to their side without being tagged.
5. Play again, if time.



WEEK 2

LARGE GROUP

MESSAGE

SUPPLIES

- A Bible in your preferred version (This week uses NLT.)
- A picture of a breastplate (printed or on your screen)
- Fake or real coins
- Money bag

INTRODUCTION

Last week we kicked off our Spiritual Warfare series by learning about the first piece in the armor of God. Who remembers what the first piece is? **Allow kids to respond.** The first piece is the belt of truth. We learned that the belt of truth keeps all of our other armor in place. We can find truth in God's Word. Each piece of armor represents a part of God's strength that He extends to us when we ask Him to come into our lives. **Hold up the picture of the breastplate or put it up on the screen while you talk.** What is a breastplate anyway? A typical armed soldier wore a breastplate made of bronze or chain mail. It covered the vital organs, namely the heart, and was fitted with loops or buckles that attached it to a thick belt.

BIBLE STORY

What does righteousness mean? Allow kids to respond. It means to be free from guilt or sin, to be morally right. How can we put on the breastplate of righteousness to protect ourselves from the enemy, the devil? Let's take a look at what Romans 4:1-5 has to say about a righteous man named Abraham.



WEEK 2

LARGE GROUP

Allow the kids time to turn to Romans 4:1-5

It says, “Abraham was, humanly speaking, the founder of our Jewish nation. What did he discover about being made right with God? If his good deeds had made him acceptable to God, he would have had something to boast about. But that was not God’s way. For the Scriptures tell us, ‘Abraham believed God, and God counted him as righteous because of his faith.’ When people work, their wages are not a gift, but something they have earned. But people are counted as righteous, not because of their work, but because of their faith in God who forgives sinners.”

God chose Abraham way back in the Old Testament times to be the father of many nations. God asked Abraham to move away from his hometown without telling him where he would go, told him he would have a son when he was already an old man, and even asked him to sacrifice his only son. God considered Abraham to be righteous and good, not because of anything he did, but because of his great faith in God no matter what.

LIFE APPLICATION/OBJECT LESSON

Pull out the coins and money bag, adding a coin to the bag for each good deed you list. Many people and other religions believe that they can earn their faith and salvation through doing good deeds. They think every time they do anything good on earth they are adding more “change” to their heavenly money bag. Let’s think of some good things we can do together. **Allow kids to give you some suggestions and put a coin in the bag for each one.** People think they can hand God their bag of good deeds and earn their way into heaven on their own.



WEEK 2

LARGE GROUP

Do you believe that you can earn your faith by doing good deeds? **Allow kids to respond.** It doesn't work that way! It's actually the exact opposite. When Jesus died on the cross and rose again, He paid the price for us. We will never be able to do enough righteous or good deeds to earn our way into heaven on our own. That doesn't mean we should never do good things on earth. Good deeds are a result of our choice to put our faith in God, not a requirement for salvation. When we choose to put our faith in God, we will want to live our lives for Him, and that includes doing good deeds for others. The breastplate of a soldier was held in place by the belt. If the belt was loosened, the breastplate slipped right off. Our own righteousness and good deeds are useless unless we know the truth and believe it. Matthew 6:33 says, "Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need." Let's pray and ask God to help us keep our eyes on Him and our faith in Him, and He is going to take care of the rest.

Optional: Offer a prayer of salvation for any kids who have not accepted Jesus into their lives.



WEEK 2

LARGE GROUP

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What piece of the armor of God did we learn about today?
Answer: The breastplate of righteousness
2. What is a breastplate used for?
Answer: It is worn to cover and protect the vital organs, including the heart.
3. Can doing good works and being a righteous person earn your salvation?
Answer: No
4. What is Today's Takeaway?
Answer: I am righteous because of my faith in God.
5. In which book of the Bible is our series verse found?
Answer: Ephesians



WEEK 2

SMALL GROUP

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What are some things people might try to do to earn their way into heaven?
2. What does being righteous or good mean to you?
3. Who is someone you consider to be very righteous?
4. What is a good deed you could do this week?
5. Have kids look up these verses and discuss them as a group.
Isaiah 64:6, 2 Corinthians 5:21, Matthew 6:33



WEEK 2

SMALL GROUP

GAME: CONTROLLER

SUPPLIES

- No supplies are needed.

SETUP

- No setup is required.

HOW TO PLAY

1. Have the group stand up. Choose one kid to be the "controller" to start.
2. The "controller" will give directions and everyone else will have to follow them.
For example: stand on foot, crawl around the room, hop up and down, do jumping jacks, spin around, etc.
3. After about 5-10 directions choose a new "controller".
4. Keep playing until everyone has had a chance to be the "controller" or until you run out of time.
5. Optional: Have the leaders be the "controllers".