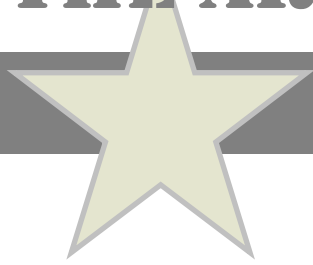


STAND FIRM

A STUDY OF THE ARMOR OF GOD



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MISSION

2

MISSION 2: THE BELT OF TRUTH (EPHESIANS 6:14)

The Uniform: God's Armor

After a little basic training last week, it is time to begin issuing your equipment and teaching you how to use it. The first piece of armor that Paul mentioned in Ephesians chapter six is the Belt of Truth. The thing is, that a belt is not a weapon, but it is an important piece of armor. In Paul's time the belt kept the breastplate in place and held the sword. It also kept the soldier agile, or ready. Soldiers wore tunics and a belt would go around their waist to keep the tunic out of the way so they could move easily. It is a little like needing a belt today to keep your pants from falling around your knees!

We have seen the importance of a belt for military armor, but why do you think Paul compared an important belt to truth?

Combat Intelligence: The Enemy

Last week we talked about our enemy. Our enemy is not human. Our enemy is the devil and our struggle is spiritual. The name "devil" actually means "someone who accuses falsely." The Bible explains this when it says the devil "has never obeyed the truth. There is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his natural language. He does this because he is a liar. He is the father of lies." (John 8:44b NIV) There is no truth at all in the devil. All lies come from him.

The Battle Plan: Be Prepared to Stand Firm

Have you ever heard how counterfeit money is detected? You study the real bill and know everything about it. Then, when a counterfeit bill passes through your hands you know immediately that it isn't the real thing!

Paul compared the military belt to truth because when we know the truth, a lie is so much easier to detect! The comparison is important, too, because when we know the truth we are more agile, or ready, to obey God and to do the right thing. All

OBJECTIVES:

- To be reminded who the enemy is
- To be prepared to stand firm
- To begin issuing equipment
- To be sure of enlistment

FROM THE INSTRUCTION MANUAL:

(Memory Verse)

"If you obey my teaching," [Jesus] said, "you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth. And the truth will set you free."

(John 8:31b-32 NIV)

of the other pieces of armor depend on the belt of truth.

Our enemy likes to tell us lies. He likes to cause us to doubt what God has said and he accuses us before God. The Bible tells us that Jesus is Truth, not just that He tells the truth or knows the truth, but He is Truth. (John 14:6) Since we can't walk and talk with Jesus, how can we know what truth is? Jesus said this about the Bible, "Your Word is truth." (John 17:17) We "wear the belt of truth" when we read God's Word and believe and trust in what it says. We also "wear the belt of truth" when we study the Bible and put it into practice in our lives. That is the key to stand firm and hold your position in this spiritual battle you and I are in.

The Swearing-In: Have you enlisted?

You know, Adam and Eve give us an example of what not to do. They walked and talked with God and heard truth from Him, but chose to believe the lies of Satan instead. "Since [Satan's] triumph in the Garden of Eden, he's sought to deceive us, to blind our eyes to the light of the one truth which can free us from his dominion—the **gospel of Jesus Christ.**"¹

So, if you don't want to be confused by the enemy's lies what should you do? The first step is making sure you have enlisted in God's army, His family. Don't let anything keep you from responding to God's invitation of love and salvation. Remember that Jesus said, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:6 NIV) Did you know that you can't even be issued your uniform if you haven't enlisted? Won't you join God's team today?

If you are already a soldier, or Christian, what can you do to make sure you don't begin to doubt what you trusted for salvation? Our memory verse says, "'If you obey my teaching,' [Jesus] said, 'you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth. And the truth will set you free.'" (John 8:31b-32 NIV) The key is to put into practice what you hear and trust. Obey what your commander tells you to do! Then, you will be able to hold your position, to stand firm!

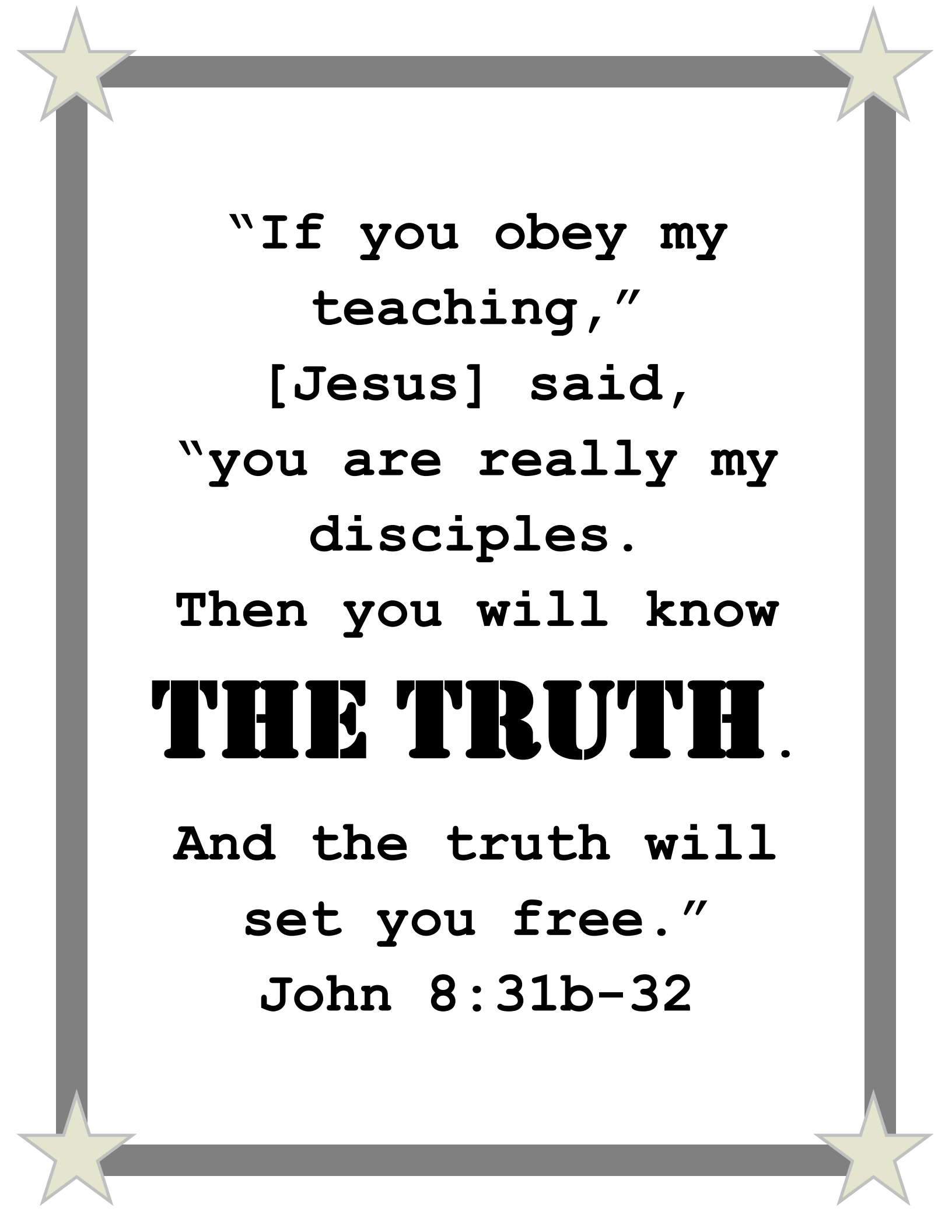
¹ Arthur, Kay. Lord, Is It Warfare? Teach Me to Stand. 1991. Waterbrook Press. P. 71.

ACTIVITIES



- Make a paper belts of truth.
- Continue memorizing Ephesians 6:10-20 (Spiritual Basic Training). Do a verse or phrase at a time and make up hand motions that will help your students remember.
- Run Relay Races to enforce the idea of Basic Training.
- Learn and sing "The Battle Belongs to the Lord" and "I'm In the Lord's Army."
- Review the Plan of Salvation. Make bookmarks, bracelets, crosses or whatever will make the plan of salvation clear to your students.
- **Extra Training:** Look up the following verses and discover Combat Intelligence of your enemy. Also talk about the two different ways to respond. Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-8 and Job 1:1-2:10.
- **Extra Training:** Let's look at another battle this week. Read 2 Kings 18:17-19:36 and discuss. From what you have learned about truth, explain how the real battle took place before a sword was drawn (2 Kings 19:14-19).





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Then you will know

THE TRUTH.

And the truth will
set you free.”

John 8:31b-32

WORD SEARCH



r r e n d e r t h e r e n e m
y m n e e h t e n f i s t s i
o g o d s a r m o a m u h t o
d h t t l t r u s t y r e j d
s t h o t n e m u h e d e e i
a u u m a n b e p e t s n s i
r r s t a n d f i r m u e u y
y t a e r r l t t o b r m s n
d f n t s e m a o f a r y i r
n o i t i s o p d l o h t s e
y t e a r u b d n i s n d t r
n l i s t c e f s e r d m r r
s e n d f c y i v s d e h u h
e b g v i a e r o m r r a t d
o d s a r m o m r e n e m h h

stand firm

the enemy

father of lies

accuser

Jesus is Truth

belt of truth

hold position

obey

trust

WORD SEARCH

Answers

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s t h o t n e m u h e d e e i
a u u m a n b e p e t s n s i
r r s t a n d f i r m u e u y
y t a e r r l t t o b r m s n
d f n t s e m a o f a r y i r
n o i t i s o p d l o h t s e
y t e a r u b d n i s n d t r
n l i s t c e f s e r d m r r
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