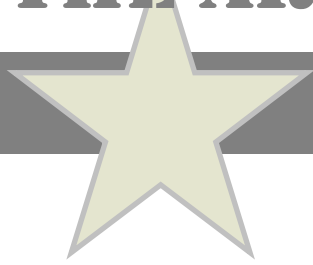


STAND FIRM

A STUDY OF THE ARMOR OF GOD



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MISSION

4

MISSION 4: SANDALS OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE (EPHESIANS 6:15)

The Uniform: God's Armor

As Paul was writing to the church in Ephesus he compared the Roman soldier's armor to the preparation we need for spiritual battles against our enemy the devil. What was the first piece of armor he mentioned? (The Belt of Truth) And the second? (The Breastplate of Righteousness) The third goes on the feet, the Good News of Peace. Covering the feet may not sound as important as protecting all the vital organs, but what would happen in battle if you couldn't stand? You see, the Roman soldiers' sandals were strapped on and had really thick soles that were covered with nails. That seems like overkill, but the enemy was known for sharpening sticks into a point and burying them in the ground so that they could barely be seen. If those sticks were able to penetrate a sandal, that would be the end of the soldier.¹

How can peace keep us standing firm in a battle? Let's figure out what peace is, first. Peace can mean that there is no war, but if we are talking about preparation for a battle, that can't be it. Isaiah 9:6 tells us that Jesus is the Prince of Peace, so where Jesus reigns (or is in control) there is peace. Did you know that you can be at perfect peace in your heart? You can if you have received the Good News of Jesus Christ, are surrendered to Him as Lord and stay focused on Him rather than the circumstances around you. (Isaiah 26:3)

The Swearing-In: Have you enlisted?

Does that describe you? Is your heart at peace? Do you know that you can't begin to have peace with those around you if it's not? The Bible, our Instruction Manual, says, "There is no peace...for the wicked" but "He promises peace to His people, His faithful servants." (Isaiah 48:22, Psalm 85:8)

Are you ready for that peace? Then invite Jesus to come into your heart and life and lead you. That is exactly what He is waiting for!

OBJECTIVES:

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

FROM THE INSTRUCTION MANUAL:

(Memory Verse)

How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of the messenger who brings good news, the good news of peace and salvation, the news that the God of Israel reigns! (Isaiah 52:7 NLT)

Once you hear the truth of God's Word, accept it, and begin to live in obedience, it leads to sharing your faith. Then you are making sure others are at peace with God!

Combat Intelligence: The Enemy

Do you think your enemy wants you at peace with God? Of course not! If you'll remember, he wanted Job to curse God. Job knew his God and trusted Him. "If (you) have done everything (you) can to walk in peace with God and others, (you) will be able to stand against the enemy's accusations...Remember Satan is a murderer—a destroyer. Jesus is the Prince of Peace, the Giver of Life."¹

Your Instruction Manual, the Bible says, "'When you are angry, don't let that anger make you sin,' and don't stay angry all day. Don't give the devil a way to defeat you." (Ephesians 4:26-27) Staying angry is linked with giving the devil and opportunity to defeat you! You see, the things that our sinful selves want to do include "hatred and fighting, jealousy and fits of anger," but the things that come from letting God be in control include "love, joy, and peace." (Galatians 5:19, 22)

Satan will not stand by idly while you share peace with others. He will roar and he will try to devour, but remember what your Instruction Manual, the Bible, says will happen with your enemy, the devil? "The God of Peace will soon crush Satan under your feet." (Romans 16:20) Now that's good news!

The Battle Plan: Be Prepared to Stand Firm

From the verses above, it's obvious that standing firm requires obedience to your superior officers and to God. Holding on to anger is not the way. In fact, once we are at peace with God and help others to find that peace, you and I should live at peace with others. That is mentioned over and over again in your Instruction Manual. In the book of Romans it says, "If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone (12:18)," and "let us do all we can to live in peace. And let us work hard to build up one another (14:19)." You can do that by not staying angry with anyone and by forgiving people when they wrong you. In Hebrews we read, "Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord (12:14)." If Jesus is the Prince of Peace, then you are following His example when you make peace with others. "Blessed are those who make peace. They will be called children of God." (Matthew 5:9)

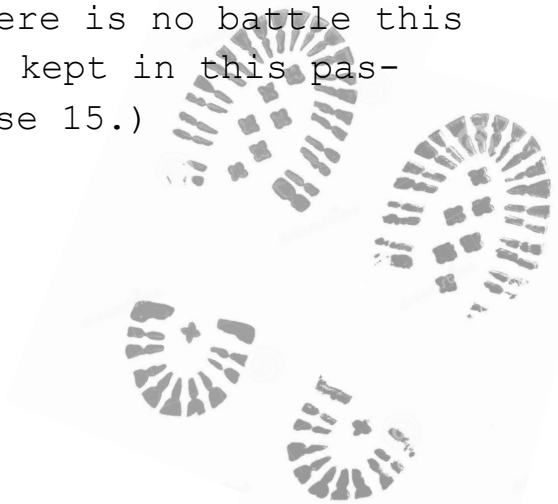
¹ Arthur, Kay. Lord, Is It Warfare? Teach Me to Stand. 1991. Waterbrook Press. P. 231-232.

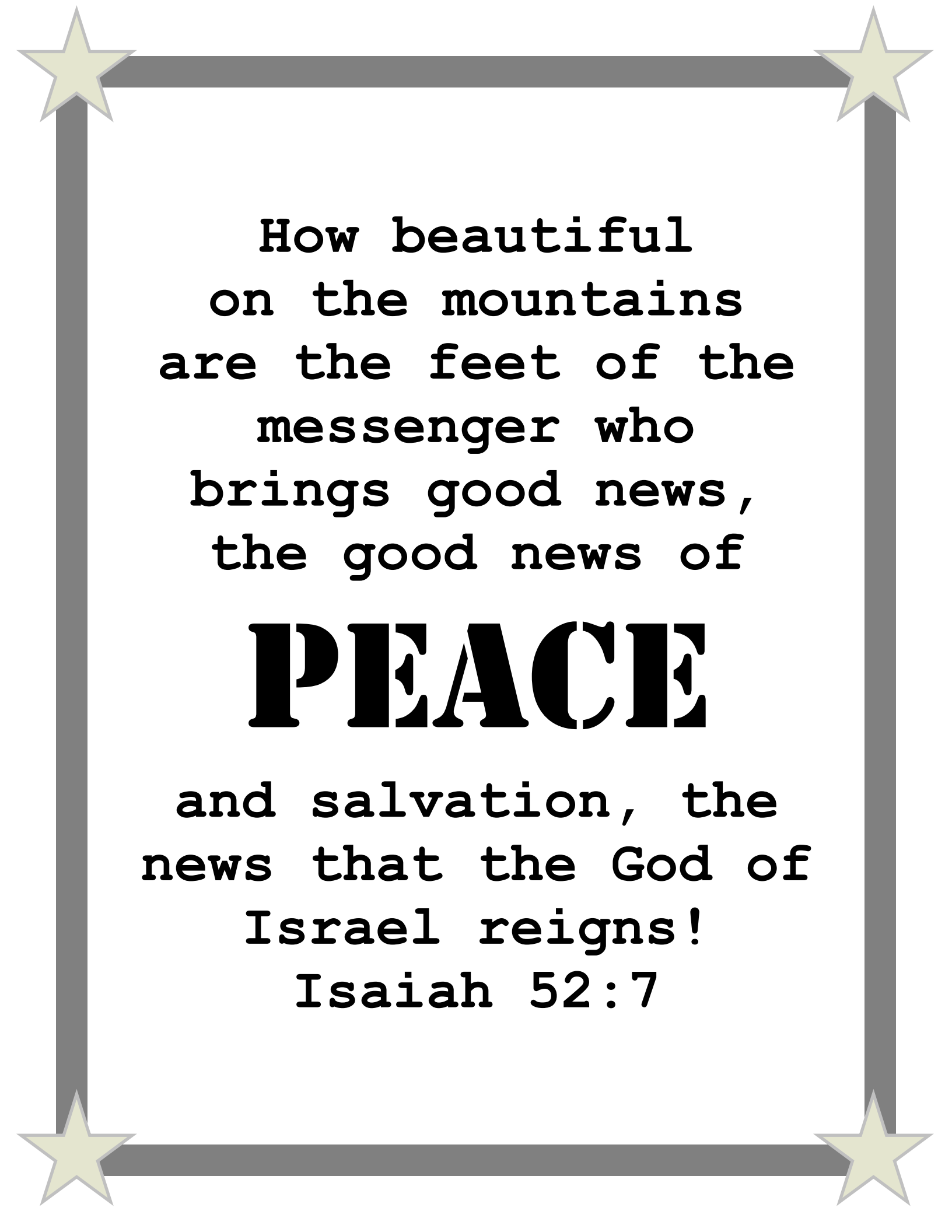
¹ Arthur, Kay. Lord, Is It Warfare? Teach Me to Stand. 1991. Waterbrook Press. P. 233.

ACTIVITIES



- Make sandals. Trace the shape of your student's shoes onto cardboard or another thick product. Use ribbon, jute, etc. for the ties.
- Make a variety of "feet crafts" like bookmarks, butterflies and even sandals.
- 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," "Be Bold," and "Trust and Obey."
- Review the Plan of Salvation. Make bookmarks, bracelets, crosses, wordless books or whatever will make the plan of salvation clear to your students.
- **Extra Training:** Look up the following verses and talk about how they can help you share the Good News of Peace with others. John 3:16; Romans 3:23, 6:23, 5:8; Acts 16:30-31.
- **Extra Training for older students:** Read Romans 16:19-20. Sing Chris Tomlin's "Romans 16:19 says."
- **Extra Training:** Read 2 Kings 5:1-19. There is no battle this week. Talk about all the ways peace was kept in this passage. What was the result? (Re-read verse 15.)





How beautiful
on the mountains
are the feet of the
messenger who
brings good news,
the good news of

PEACE

and salvation, the
news that the God of
Israel reigns!

Isaiah 52:7

WORD SEARCH



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

How _____ on the _____ are
_____ of the messenger who _____
_____, the _____
_____ and _____, the news that
the _____ of Israel _____! (Isaiah 52:7 NLT)

WORD SEARCH

Answers

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

How beautiful on the mountains are
the feet of the messenger who brings
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