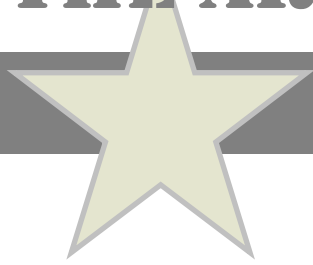


STAND FIRM

A STUDY OF THE ARMOR OF GOD



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MISSION

5

MISSION 5: SHIELD OF FAITH (EPHESIANS 6:16)

The Uniform: The Shield of Faith

Now that you have put on the Belt of Truth, the Breastplate of Righteousness and the Sandals of the Good News of Peace there are some things we need pick up and use. The first of those is the Shield of Faith.

The Roman shield was very big, sometimes measuring 4 feet in height by 2 feet in width. It was almost like carrying a door around in front of you! The shield was made of wood or iron and was covered with leather. When the soldiers went out to a battle, they would soak the leather with water. That may seem strange, but the enemy would send flaming arrows and a wet shield would extinguish the fire!

When the army was arrayed and ready for battle, the shields could be placed side by side and even interlocked to provide a wall of defense in front of the army and above them.

Why do you think Paul compared our faith to this kind of shield? Actually, the apostle John explains it this way, "This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith." (1 John 5:4) Faith brings victory just like a wall of shields around an army would. Faith is belief that trusts in and relies on something or someone. Who should our faith be in? God! Through placing our trust in God we are shielded by God's power until the day we meet Jesus face to face!

Combat Intelligence: The Enemy

"Take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one." (Ephesians 6:16 NIV) Satan's lies and accusations are like flaming arrows, but with your faith, like a shield, those lies and accusations can be extinguished. Remember in Genesis chapter three when Satan entered the Garden of Eden and tempted Eve? We learn a lot of things from fifteen short verses (3:1-15). The devil is crafty! God had told Adam which trees were okay to eat from

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)

And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him.

(Hebrews 11:6 NIV)

and which one was off-limits, but the devil approached Eve, not Adam. Then Satan questioned God and defied Him before Eve saying things like, "Did God really say...?" and "You're not really going to die." Then Satan had the guts to tell Eve, "God knows that your eyes will be opened," as if God were the bad guy keeping something good from them! Those are flaming arrows, alright! Are you prepared for an attack like that? Satan hasn't changed. If he tried to cause Eve to doubt God's goodness, he will do the same to you.

The Swearing-In: Have you enlisted?

Who have you put your faith in? Who is it you run to when you need help? Are you ready to trust in God that way, to run to Him for help? Aren't you ready to join the Lord's Army so that you can stand firm against the devil's evil schemes? Let's talk.

The Battle Plan: Be Prepared to Stand Firm

Do you remember in our second lesson on the Belt of Truth when we talked about real and counterfeit money? You don't have to get to know the counterfeit; study the real thing and the counterfeit won't stand a chance when it appears before you! Spiritually, what is the "real thing" we should be studying? God! And we find out about Him by reading His Word, our Instruction Manual, the Bible.

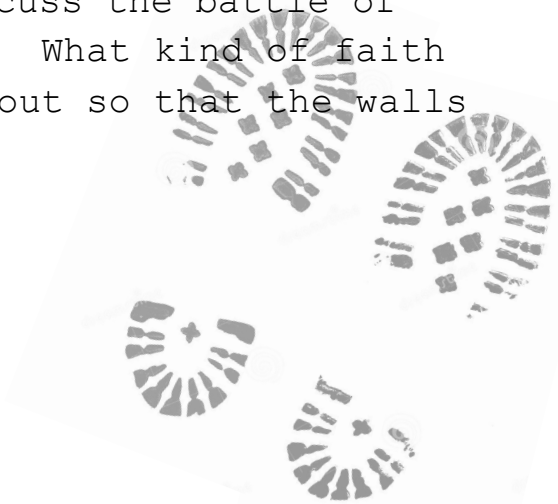
The leather on a shield would dry out and need to be soaked in water again and again. Over and over the Bible, our Instruction Manual, that we need to be studying, compares water to God and the Holy Spirit in us. We need to be faithful to read God's word and to pray, to stay connected to Him. Comparing water to our need to stay connected to God, our Instruction Manual says, "A deer longs for streams of **water**. God, I long for [God] in the same way." (Psalm 42:1 NIV) Psalm 1 says, "Blessed is the person who obeys the law of the LORD....the law of the LORD gives them joy. They think about His law day and night. That kind of person is like a tree that is planted near a stream of **water**. It always bears its fruit at the right time. Its leaves don't dry up." (Psalm 1:1-3 NIV) According to these verses, how can you be strong and ready for anything? Wanting God's Word in your life the way your body wants (and needs) water. Also, "when you use specific truths from God's Word to counteract the devil's lies and accusations, you're taking up the shield of faith! When the enemy attacks, the shield [your faith] extinguishes the lie or accusation with an appropriate truth or promise that you've chosen to believe."¹

¹ Arthur, Kay. Lord, Is It Warfare? Teach Me to Stand. 1991. Waterbrook Press. P. 249.

ACTIVITIES



- Make shields. Use cardboard or poster board. Be sure to include the memory verse in your decoration.
- Faith Object Lesson: Blindfold a student who will listen and obey. Lead the student from one point to another with verbal instruction and then have the student sit. Talk about Hebrews 11:1.
- 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:** Divide your students into small groups and encourage them to read through sections of Hebrews 11. Come together as a group again and discuss what each group learned about faith. Who had it? What did it cause them to do?
- **Extra Training:** Read Joshua 6:1-20. Discuss the battle of Jericho in light of our lesson on faith. What kind of faith did it take to walk around a city and shout so that the walls would fall?





And without

FAITH

it is

impossible

to please God.

Hebrews 11:6



And without

FAITH

it is impossible
to please God,
because anyone who
comes to Him must
believe that He
exists and that He
rewards those who
earnestly seek Him.

Hebrews 11:6

WORD SEARCH



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

shield of faith

soaked leather

the enemy

accusations

flaming arrows

water

God's Word

walk by faith

trust God

WORD SEARCH

Answers

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

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