

THIS IS HOW WE FIGHT
OUR BATTLES



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FROM VICTORY

THE THEME

Stand Strong in the Armor of God

MEMORY VERSE

Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” - **John 14:6**

CHALLENGE VERSE

“See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!”

- **1 John 3:1a**

MAY 21 - LIFE APPLICATION

Stand strong wearing the Shoes of Peace

Note to Parents:

Our current topic is, **“Stand Strong in the Armor of God.”** This week, we continue talking about putting on The Armor of God when we talk about wearing the **Shoes of the Gospel of Peace**. Turn to **Ephesians 6:13-15** in your Bible for reference. If you did not go to church on Sunday, you can listen to the sermon online before discussing: momentsofhopechurch.org/messages

REVIEW: Together, read **Ephesians 6:13-15**.

Say: “See if you can **finish these phrases** for me!”

- Stand wearing the **Belt of** _____ (Let kids guess, then give the answer: Truth – when we know the truth about Jesus we can stand for Him)
- Stand wearing the **Breastplate of** _____ (Righteousness – we are righteous and forgiven when we know our true identity is in Jesus)

Today, we will talk about the third piece of the Armor of God and how we can **Stand wearing the Shoes of the Gospel of Peace!** (In order to talk about what this means, prepare by reading **Ephesians 2:1-10**)

1. We know what shoes are. Right? **But, what does the word “peace” mean to you?** (Let family members answer with their thoughts- faith that God is with us, producing a calm heart, no anxiety, no worries, etc.)
2. We are talking about putting on the shoes of the Gospel of Peace. **Do you know what “Gospel” means?** In **Ephesians 2:1-3** it says we are all lost because of our sin. We are following the ways of the world, and disobedient to God. We are children of the prince of darkness, Satan, until we have been saved by Jesus (when he gave His life on the cross and was raised from dead on the 3rd day). **The story of Jesus giving his life to save us is the Gospel!**
3. **Why did God send Jesus to save us?** Read **verse 4:** “But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—” (God sent Jesus because He loves us and wants us to be with Him forever, His children. Also, He is rich in mercy, even though we have sinned against Him.)

4. **What does that mean for us?** Read **verses 6 and 7**: "...and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus."

Wow, God loves us so much! He has great plans for us! **Did we do anything to deserve Him choosing us?** Read **verses 8,9**: "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast." *(No, it is not our works that saved us, but our faith, and it is a gift that we can choose to receive.)*

5. Read **verse 10**: "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them." **Who are we to God?** *(We are his workmanship – created to do good works in this world for him – he has already prepared these things for us to do!)*
6. Soldiers need their uniforms. In those days, they wore armor, and an important part of the Armor of God is shoes. In **Ephesians 6:15** we are told by Paul to put on the **Shoes of the Gospel of Peace**: "and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace."
7. We have to understand the Gospel, the Good News about Jesus, in order to have the peace that comes with knowing Him, and also to be ready. **God will give us the confidence and peace to stand strong for Him!** And, we don't have to do it alone! Jesus sent a Helper – the Holy Spirit – to be with us and to guide us.

Read **John 14:26** to see how the Holy Spirit can help us when we fight our battles: "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you."

FAMILY CHALLENGE

1. After talking about the gospel, it's the perfect time to ask your kids about choosing to accept the gift of salvation offered to us.
 - Hold a nicely wrapped package in your lap as you talk. **Ask your kids what they would do if someone offered them a beautiful gift? Would they open it? Or turn it down because they weren't sure?** Jesus is offering us the gift

of being His friend forever and one day living in heaven with Him!

- It could be that your child is ready to make this big step but not sure how. You can have the blessing of praying with them! For children, the **A-B-C method** works well: They **Admit** that they are a sinner and that they have done wrong things, they **Believe** that Jesus came to earth to die for their sins, and they **Choose** to accept His free gift of salvation.

We will have baptisms at Moments of Hope soon – and the first one will be on June 18. Please let us know if your child is interested in being baptized (ages 3rd grade and up is the recommended age). Here is the link to inform us if you or your child are interested in being baptized:

momentsofhopechurch.org/baptism-2023

2. Once we have accepted Jesus's gift of salvation, we are ready to put on the Armor of God, and Stand for Him in this world, bringing light and peace wherever we go. **Do you and your kids have any old shoes?** For fun, turn them into shoes of peace by using paint pens to decorate them. Be sure and write the word PEACE on them!

PRAYER

Dear Jesus, Thank You for your gift of salvation, that brings peace and confidence to us so that we can stand strong and do good works for you in this world! We love You! Amen