

Section 05

Days 13 through 15



AuthORITY AND RIGHTEOUSNESS

"Finally, be strong in the Lord and

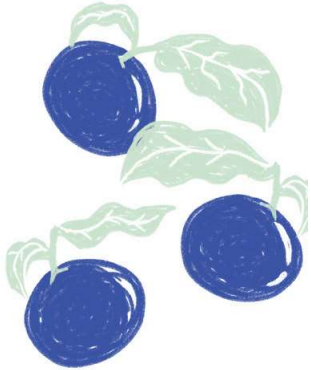
in His mighty power."

Eph 6:10 (NIV)



Day 13

The armor of God



Dive into the Word

“Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but

against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. 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. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests.”

—Ephesians 6:11-18 (NIV)

God gives us everything we need for the battles in life, no matter how small.

Family Moment

Gather the following supplies for armor of God dress up: belt, coat (breastplate), shoes, plate (shield), bike helmet and paper-towel tube (or toy sword). Select a family member to put on all the items as someone reads this passage out loud. Name the items as you put them on, and have kids shout out what they stand for (e.g., “Belt?” “Truth!”). The armor of God reminds us that God fights for us, and He equips us with everything we need to stand firm. Talk about the “battles” you faced last week (big or small), and discuss how the armor of God would be helpful for each battle shared.

Let’s Pray!

1. Remember to “be alert” and always keep praying for all the Lord’s people (v. 18)!
2. As believers, we get to bring our “requests”—big or small—to the Lord and ask Him to help us and our friends and family each day.
3. Pray: “God, thank You that You have given us the full armor of God to protect our hearts. We ask You to help us to stand firm in our faith and to help those around us. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

Notes



Day 14

Righteous in Christ

Jesus gave His life for our sins, so that we could be forgiven!



Dive into the Word

"When you were dead in your sins

and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; He has taken it away, nailing it to the cross. And having disarmed the powers and authorities, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross."

—Colossians 2:13-15 (NIV)

Family Moment

What does the word "righteous" mean? Because God is righteous, He cannot tolerate sin. But God is also loving. Because of His love for us, He makes a way for us to be free from sin and brings us back into His family. Jesus takes our sin and gives us His righteousness. Through Jesus, we not only can live in God's presence, but God's

Holy Spirit lives in us to help us to become like God. This is the Good News! Have you made the decision to follow Jesus? Adults, share your testimony with your children, and offer them the opportunity to follow Jesus, or celebrate with them if they already are.

Let's Pray!

1. Reflect: When we ask for forgiveness of our sins, they are nailed to the cross.
2. How was Jesus' dying for our sins a "triumph"?
3. Pray: "God, thank You for dying on the cross to save me from my sins. Please forgive me of the wrong things I have done and help me to be more like You. In Jesus' name, Amen."

*Answer: Righteous means perfect, holy, without sin.

Notes



Day 15

Promise prayers



Dive into the Word

"I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which He has called you, the riches of

His glorious inheritance in His holy people, and His incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength He exerted when He raised Christ from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come."

—Ephesians 1:18-21 (NIV)

Do you know all the wonderful things God has promised us?

Family Moment

Share the words from today's verses that stand out to you. God invites us to pray big prayers with the power and authority that comes from following Jesus. What does it mean to pray with authority? Declaring the promises of God is a great place to start. Go on a promise hunt through the Bible, e.g., He loves you (Rom. 5:8), He hears you (Ps. 34:17), You are His child (John 1:12), and He will never leave you (Deut. 31:8). Invite everyone to find a promise of God.

Let's Pray!

1. Did you know God gives us "incomparably great power" when we follow Him?
2. The power described in Ephesians 1:19 is given so that we can follow God's plans and purposes on Earth. God wants to use us to do big things!
3. Pray: "God, we want to see Your big plans happen on Earth. Use us to do big things, and let us see Your will being done. In Jesus' name, Amen."

Notes