

TRUTH OR ERROR

DAY 1

BIBLE PASSAGES

Ephesians 6:10–11; Genesis 1–3

APOLOGETICS CONTENT

Build a biblical worldview to stand strong in the battle for truth.

VICTORY VERSE

Put on the whole armor of God. Ephesians 6:11

RHYME TIME

Of two, only one is true!

LESSON FOCUS

Children will learn why there are two spiritual kingdoms—God’s good kingdom and the Enemy’s (Satan) bad kingdom. There’s a battle between them that we are all involved in.

Today’s Exploration Stations

- Craft Creations: Knight Time
- Touch Table: Snakes
- Dramatic Play: Inside the Castle
- Discovery Center: Good vs. Bad
- Coloring Corner: Ephesians 6:11

Today’s Lesson at a Glance

- Introduce It!
Bag of Tricks
- Teach It!
Part 1: The Kingdom Chronicles
Part 2: Puppet Pal—The Battle’s On
- Apply It!
Part 1: Victory Verse
Part 2: Go and Do
Optional Song: “I’m in the Lord’s Army”

Preparing for the Lesson

- Read Genesis 1–3 and Ephesians 6:10–18 several times.
- Read this lesson several times and prepare the materials. For more information on the fall of Satan and building a biblical worldview, visit Answers VBS.com/APFAQ.
- Pray.

Lesson Materials

FROM TEACHER RESOURCE KIT

- Theme memory verse poster
- Memory verse poster
- Daily overview poster
- Good Kingdom/Bad Kingdom poster
- The Kingdom Chronicles posters (2 posters)

FROM TEACHER RESOURCE CD-ROM

- Stained glass cross pattern (Expl. Station)
- Good vs. Bad pattern cards (Expl. Station)
- Day 1 memory verse coloring sheet (Expl. Station)
- “Bag of Tricks” sign
- Optical illusion pattern
- 2 copies of today’s puppet script

OTHER MATERIALS

- Bible or children’s Bible
- Medieval costumes for teachers
- Exploration Station supplies (see back cover)
- Bag of tricks supplies (see page 17)
- Treasure chest supplies (see page 18)
- Scissors, 1 pair
- Mounting putty
- Boy or girl puppet and puppet stage (stained glass window on the set)
- Clipboard
- Mini sword (see page 19)
- Optional: Student guides and supplies (see page 21)
- Optional: Day 1 Armor of God card, 1 per child

Devotion I

Truth or Error

Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts, and in the hidden part You will make me to know wisdom. (Psalm 51:6)

When Pilate questioned Jesus about the charges the Jews were leveling at Him, Jesus replied, “You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.”

Can you hear the cynicism and sarcasm in Pilate’s voice as he asks dismissively, “What is truth?” and goes about handing over Jesus to the Jews for crucifixion? (John 18:37–38)

Throughout the ages people have echoed Pilate’s question, in sincerity as well as skepticism. In fact, the battle over truth is as ancient as the original sin. Take a look at the lies Satan told himself and those who rebelled with him against their Creator:

“How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! . . . For you have said in your heart: ‘I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, *I will be like the Most High*’” (Isaiah 14:12–14, emphasis added).

Satan knew the truth—that there is none in heaven like the Creator God—but he exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and in the process became the father of lies (John 8:44). His first temptation of Adam and Eve was a continuation on the theme. He introduced error into God’s words (“You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?” Genesis 3:1) and then blatantly lied about what God had said (“You will not surely die,” Genesis 3:4).

For the past six thousand years, we’ve been foundering, trying to find our way on our own, denying that truth comes from the One who cannot lie and that it is found in His infallible Word. Thankfully, God in His infinite grace has given us the armor we need so that we can stand strong in this battle for truth and boldly serve our Creator.

This week as we examine the pieces of armor God has provided, ask yourself this: Where am I in the battle? Am I asking “what is truth?” along with Pilate, or do I know the difference between truth and error based on God’s Word?

“The truthful lip shall be established forever, but a lying tongue is but for a moment” (Proverbs 12:19).

Exploration Stations

Craft Creations: Knight Time

MATERIALS

- Colorful tablecloth
- Stained glass cross pattern (Teacher CD-ROM)
- Cardstock
- Washable paint and small paintbrushes

PRE-PREP

Cover the table with a colorful tablecloth. This will be used all week. Print the cross pattern on cardstock and put the paint and paintbrushes in the center.

DIRECTIONS

Paint the cross picture.

TEACHING TIE-IN

Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead so that we can be part of God's good kingdom. We'll talk more about this tomorrow.

Touch Table: Snakes

MATERIALS

- Under-the-bed storage container, small wading pool, or "official" touch table
- Tarp or plastic tablecloth
- Rubber or plastic snakes
- Either play sand, crinkle wrap, shredded paper, Easter grass, or packing peanuts

PRE-PREP

Tarp the floor under the touch table. This will be used all week. Decide what base material (play sand or whatever) you want to use. You may want to keep it the same all week, or you may want to switch it some of the days and use other materials. Put the base material in the touch table and add the snakes.

DIRECTIONS

Free play with the snakes.

TEACHING TIE-IN

Does anyone know what the serpent was called in the Garden of Eden? His name was Satan, and he is the leader of the bad kingdom. He played a bad trick on Eve.

Dramatic Play: Inside the Castle

MATERIALS

Choose from any of the following, depending on your situation. These will be used all week.

- Inside of castle stone wall (see Decorating Decisions)
- Banners, pennants, coats of arms (see Teacher CD-ROM)
- Swags of sheer material or crepe paper
- Little table, chairs, "throne"
- Small rocking chair
- Baskets, wooden bowls
- Silver plastic cups or plastic transparent cups
- Play food (e.g., eggs, bread, cheese, fruit)
- Costumes (e.g., capes, crowns, play armor sets, princess dresses)
- Small broom and pail
- Stick horses
- Crate or large basket

PRE-PREP

Set up the castle with the castle stone wall, the table and chairs, supplies, and costumes. Make the throne by putting a piece of foam core or plywood on the back of the chair and draping it with a piece of satin, velvet, or other shiny material. (Or just use a high-back chair and cover with material.) Put the costumes in a crate or large basket.

Note: Make play armor sets from simple items: styro-foam plates for shields, spray painted fast food chicken buckets for helmets, old ties for belts, and vest for breastplates. Other costume ideas include crowns or tiaras (see craft guide for crown ideas), princess dresses found at garage sales, or tunics made from old pillowcases that have the sides slit and an opening cut for the head. Play armor sets are also sold in the resource catalog (26-1-049).

DIRECTIONS

Dress up and pretend to be knights, kings, queens, etc.

TEACHING TIE-IN

It's fun to play kings and queens, isn't it? Did you know God is described as the King of kings? There's no other king like Him!

Note: You may want to put out only part of the supplies today and add new ones each day. Suggestions for making parts of the armor are given daily.

Discovery Center: Good vs. Bad

MATERIALS

- White roll paper or white poster board
- Good vs. Bad pattern cards (Teacher CD-ROM)

PRE-PREP

Put the roll paper or poster board on a table. Draw a line down the middle. Write “Good Kingdom” on one side and draw a smiley face. Write “Bad Kingdom” on the other side and draw a frowney face. Photocopy the patterns and cut into cards. Draw smiley faces lightly on the back of the good cards and frowney faces on the back of the bad cards.

DIRECTIONS

Sort the cards into either the “Good Kingdom” or the “Bad Kingdom.” When done, flip them over to see if they are in the right spots using the smiley or frowney faces for self checking.

TEACHING TIE-IN

There are two kingdoms, aren't there? But of the two, only one is true. God is the ruler of the true, good kingdom. If we are part of God's family, we are part of that kingdom.

Coloring Corner: Ephesians 6:11

MATERIALS

- Outside of castle decorating supplies (see Decorating Decisions), including moat (blue plastic tablecloth)
- Day 1 memory verse coloring sheet (Teacher CD-ROM)
- Markers or crayons in a wooden bowl or metal pail
- Optional: Additional supplies to add to the sheets, including glue sticks

PRE-PREP

Photocopy the coloring sheet, 1 per child. Make or gather the decorating supplies and set them up. These will be used all week. Gather additional supplies to glue on if you'd like, such as foil for the knight's outfit or a piece of a feather added to his helmet.

DIRECTIONS

Color the sheet. Add additional supplies if desired.

TEACHING TIE-IN

Practice saying the memory verse on the sheet. Discuss its meaning.

Additional Exploration Station Ideas

- Castle Building—Assemble various supplies that kids can use to build castles. This can be on a small scale (building blocks, cereal boxes, etc.) or on a larger scale (appliance boxes, copy paper boxes, cardboard tubes, etc.) You can also make “bricks” out of lunch bags by stuffing them with newspaper, then folding down/flattening the opened end, and taping them shut.
- Canopy Reading—Make a colorful canopy/tent using a sheet draped over a table. Put a basket inside with a variety of children's books, including children's picture Bibles, books about knights and castles, and books with accurate accounts of dragons, such as *When Dragons Hearts Were Good*.
- Puppet or Marionette Theater—Puppets and marionettes were popular in medieval times, so have a play station featuring these items.
- Play Figurines—Borrow or buy play plastic figurines of knights, kings, queens, horses, etc. Also see if anyone has a play castle that can be borrowed. Or buy paper/cardstock versions of these online or at a teacher supply store.

Introduce It!

Bag of Tricks (5 minutes)

TEACHER ONE: Greetings, knights and fair maidens! I am _____, the Royal Trainer here at the Learn-a-Lot Chambers. This week we're going to learn about true kings, kingdoms, and some special armor we need to put on as we battle for the heavenly King.

TEACHER TWO: And I'm _____ the Great, his Royal Helper. I'm so happy to be at the Learn-a-Lot Chambers, because I love to learn and have fun!

TEACHER ONE: To get started, do you have something fun planned for us, _____ the Great?

TEACHER TWO: I sure do! It's my bag of tricks. Pull out a bag labeled "Bag of Tricks." **Watch carefully!** Proceed to perform two or three. Teacher One can help if needed. If you mess up any of the tricks, you may want to joke that your nickname is _____ the (Not So) Great! Also, show them how you did the tricks after completing them so they're aware they're just tricks.

Laser cut banana—Shortly before class (don't do too much ahead of time or the hole will turn brown), take a pin and poke it into a banana, but not out the other side. Gently, move the pin around inside the banana so it's cutting it in half. Take the pin out, and you're ready to go. During class time, wave your finger at a banana as if cutting it in half without a knife, then open the peel. The banana will fall apart and appear to be cut in two.

Climb through a piece of paper—Do an Internet search for how to walk through a piece of paper. It's particularly helpful to watch a YouTube demonstration of this idea. Practice ahead of time so you can quickly cut it when in front of the kids. You may even want to pre-prepare your paper a bit so it is folded and the cutting lines are already lightly penciled in.

Optical illusion—Stare long enough and see the word *Jesus*.

Dime out of someone's ear—Put a dime in your hand, at the base between your index and middle fingers on the palm side of your hand. Your audience should see only the backside of your hand. Try not to draw attention to your hand or make it look like you're holding the dime. Call on a child and say you will pull a dime from his ear. Act like you see something in his ear, then put your hand up to his ear, move the dime so it's between your thumb and index finger, and pull it out for all to see.

Bend a spoon—Get a regular spoon. Put it on a table and hold it so it is standing up with the round part on the table. Hold it so your hands are covering the entire handle and your chin is resting on top of the handle. It's easiest to do this by having your hands clenched, one on top of the other. (You should really only hold onto the handle with your pinkie and ring finger of the bottom hand.) Begin to press down. As you do, the handle of the spoon should go from a vertical to a horizontal position behind your hands. It will appear to be bending, even though it isn't.

I tried to trick you just for fun, but there's someone out there who wants to trick you in a mean way for real. I have my fun "Bag of Tricks" here, but this trickster has a "Bag of Dirty, Rotten Tricks." It's time to hear a little more about this trickster, so let's have _____ (Teacher One) share more about that.

- Medieval costumes for teachers
- Bag of tricks supplies
- "Bag of Tricks" sign (Teacher CD-ROM)
- Optical illusion pattern (Teacher CD-ROM)

PRE-PREP

1. Prepare your costumes and bag of tricks based on which tricks you've chosen to do.

- ✦ Think of fun names for yourselves: Sir Steven the Great, Maid Molly, Lady Catherine of Connecticut, etc.
- ✦ The Bible is listed just once daily in the supply list but is used throughout, so keep it handy and marked to the correct passages.

- Bible or children's Bible
- Treasure chest supplies
- Scissors, 1 pair
- Mounting putty
- The Kingdom Chronicles posters (2 posters, Teacher Resource Kit)

PRE-PREP

1. Make the treasure chest. Spray paint a copy paper box gold and glue fake jewels on it. Hinge the lid with duct tape so it opens and loosely closes.
2. Cut out the individual pieces from the Kingdom Chronicles poster and laminate if possible. Put mounting putty on the back of each and carefully place them (along with the Bible) in the treasure chest.
3. Hang the Kingdom Chronicles background poster in a prominent place.



♣ Be familiar with the lesson, but don't memorize it. Place it on a clipboard to use as a reference.

♣ If working as co-teachers, decide which parts of the lesson each of you will be responsible for teaching. Plan to both dress in costumes.

Teach It!

Part 1: The Kingdom Chronicles (5 minutes or less)

Teacher One: Bring out the "treasure chest." At the times listed below, pull out the appropriate piece from the treasure chest to put on the Kingdom Chronicles background poster.

Look at my beautiful treasure chest! Shall we open it and see what's inside? Slowly and dramatically open it and pull out the Bible.

Oh, it's the greatest treasure on earth, the Bible! The Bible is better than all the money and all the jewels in the world! It's a special book because God wrote His very words in it. Let's find out what God wants us to learn today from His precious book. We'll start by studying the book of Genesis. Open to Genesis 1.

Note: This can also be done by just one teacher, doing both parts.

TEACHER ONE: Thousands of years ago, God, the Creator King, made the very first man and woman. Do you know what the man's name was? Take responses.

TEACHER TWO: It's Adam! Let's shout it out together. Adam! Put the Adam picture on the background poster.

TEACHER ONE: Do you know what the woman's name was?

TEACHER TWO: It's Eve! Let's shout it out together. Eve! Put the Eve picture on the poster.

TEACHER ONE: Along with Adam and Eve lived all the different kinds of animals, such as cats and bears.

TEACHER TWO: And even dinosaurs! Put the dinosaur on the poster.

TEACHER ONE: God also made beautiful flowers and bushes and trees.

TEACHER TWO: Pretty! Pretty! Put the flowers on the poster.

TEACHER ONE: God said everything was very good. It was a perfect kingdom.

TEACHER TWO: Let's all cheer and say, "Yay!" Do so.

TEACHER ONE: But then, something bad happened to destroy this good place. An Enemy came into the kingdom.

TEACHER TWO: Sing, "Dum, da, dum, dum, dum" with me! Do so.

TEACHER ONE: This Enemy hated God and everything God had made. The Enemy was disguised as a serpent.

TEACHER TWO: Can you hiss with me? Hiss! Put the serpent on the poster.

TEACHER ONE: The Enemy didn't want Adam and Eve to live happily ever after. He wanted something bad to happen.

TEACHER TWO: Let's wag our finger at the serpent and say, "No, no, serpent!" Do so.

TEACHER ONE: So the Enemy decided to play a dirty rotten trick on Eve. God told Adam they could eat from every tree in the garden except one. God warned him that if he ate of that tree, the punishment for his disobedience would be death.

Teacher Two: Put the tree in the middle of the poster. **Oh, I bet I know what the Enemy did. He tricked Eve into eating from that tree.**

Teacher One: Yep. That's what happened. Adam and Eve both ate the fruit that God had told them not to, even though Adam knew better. And just by eating that fruit, the perfect kingdom was now messed up. Now there were two kingdoms on earth—one was good.

Teacher Two: Give me a big smile and say, "One good" while I put the good kingdom up. Put the good kingdom picture to one side of the poster.

Teacher One: And one was bad.

Teacher Two: Give me a big frown and say, "One bad" while I put the bad kingdom up. Put the bad kingdom picture on the other side of the poster.

Teacher One: And from that day on, there was a battle between the two kingdoms.

Teacher Two: Start making shooting noises.

Teacher One: No, it's not that kind of battle. It's not a battle we can actually see or hear. It's a battle we can't see between God and His good kingdom, and the Enemy and his bad kingdom. And all people throughout all time are involved in this battle.

Teacher Two: Even these nice little kiddies?

Teacher One: Even these nice little kiddies. And, sadly, this changed everything. Now earth is no longer perfect and always happy. Sometimes sad or bad things happen, don't they? But there's good news! God thought of everything, and He made a plan for His good kingdom to win. We'll hear more about that tomorrow, but right now let's sing "I'm in the Lord's Army" before we meet our puppet pal, Christian (or Christy if it's a girl).

Part 2: Puppet Pal—The Battle's On (5 minutes or less)

Each day, the puppet pal will reinforce the lesson the kids just heard. It is a quick, but important, part of the day. If you don't have a teaching assistant or a co-teacher, enlist someone (a troupe leader or other volunteer) ahead of time to work the puppet each day. If alone, have the puppet enter from a chest with the lid flipped up.

The puppet can be a boy or a girl. It is written as a boy (Christian), but it can be a girl named Christy if need be. Use a consistent voice for the puppet all week. Speak clearly, and exaggerate words and expressions. For instance, draw out certain words for emphasis, or make an exaggerated action for things like groaning, turning its head, or sneezing. Use your free hand to do things with the puppet's hands or arms. For example, if the puppet is "thinking," put the puppet's hand on its chin. When the puppet is talking, make sure the mouth is open. (This is the opposite of what people often do!)

Teacher: Let's all call together for Christian. Do so.

Puppet: Come up waving a mini sword as if pretending to sword-fight someone.

Teacher: Hi there, Christian. What are you doing?

Puppet: Oh, I'm pretending to fight Darth Vader.

Teacher: You mean the *Star Wars* bad guy?

- Boy or girl puppet and puppet stage (stained glass window on the set)
- Clipboard
- Two copies of today's puppet script (Teacher CD-ROM)
- Mini sword (large craft stick covered in foil)
- Good Kingdom/Bad Kingdom poster (Teacher Resource Kit)
- Daily overview poster (Teacher Resource Kit)

PRE-PREP

1. Tape one script inside the puppet stage and attach the other to a clipboard for reference.
2. Make the mini sword.

♣ The puppet can be dressed in a medieval costume (a cape, a crown, knight gear, etc.), or in a small VBS T-shirt. To make a small T-shirt, photocopy, cut out, and laminate a color copy of the logo and tape it to a baby-sized T-shirt.

♣ If you want to get snazzy, use a quick musical introduction and exit when it's time for the puppet to come and go.

Day 1: Truth or Error

✦ We've used the example of Luke Skywalker and Darth Vader because the *Star Wars* storyline portrays a classic example of the struggle between good and evil. If you are uncomfortable with using this example due to the New Age overtones of the story, please choose another example to use in this section.



- Optional: Student guides and supplies for Part 1 and Part 2
- Optional: Day 1 Armor of God card, 1 per child
- Theme and memory verse posters (Teacher Resource Kit)

✦ The front page of each day's student guide is an overview of today's lesson. The back page of the student guide matches this section in the teacher guide.

Puppet: Right! I'm pretending I'm the good guy, Luke Skywalker, and I'm fighting the bad guy, Darth Vader.

Teacher: It's a battle between a good kingdom and a bad kingdom, then?

Puppet: Yep!

Teacher: Did you know *Star Wars* is just a pretend story?

Puppet: I know.

Teacher: Did you know in real life there really are two kingdoms—God's good kingdom and Satan's bad kingdom?

Puppet: What do you mean?

Teacher: I was just telling the kids about a true event in the Bible. It tells us how everything used to be all good. There was only one kingdom.

Puppet: What happened?

Teacher: An Enemy named Satan came along and got the first man to disobey God's command (sin), which messed up the good kingdom on earth. So now we have two kingdoms. The good one is ruled by God, and the bad one is led by the Enemy, Satan. Hold up Good Kingdom/Bad Kingdom poster.

Puppet: And they're in a battle?

Teacher: Yep. You're pretending, but there's a real battle going on out there. You can't see it, but it's really happening.

Puppet: Oh! Should I be scared?

Teacher: Not at all if you're on God's side, 'cuz you win! Nobody can beat our all-powerful God! Just stay true to God and the good kingdom, because of the two, only one is true. Hold up the daily overview poster. **Let's say that together.** Do so.

Puppet: Of two, only one is true! I'm going to remember that. Well, I've got to go now, so see you later.

Teacher: Bye, Christian! See you soon.

Apply It!

For any remaining time, choose one or more of the following ideas to do in class. These are also on the *Pre-Primary Student Guides* and can be done at home with a parent or caretaker if you are out of time. If sending the papers home, motivate the kids to do them because they are full of good stuff! Have the troupe leaders check with the kids tomorrow to see how they did on them, and consider giving bonus contest points to the groups for their hard work.

Supplies for this section are not listed in the supply list on the back cover since they will vary depending on the activities you choose, so decide what you will do and add them to your supply list accordingly.

Part 1: Victory Verse

Today's Verse: Put on the whole armor of God. Ephesians 6:11

Show the Day 1 Armor of God card with the Bible verse on the back. They will receive this collectible at the end of the day. Then try the challenge using the theme and memory verse posters as references.

Challenge: Practice the verse several times, pretending to put on the armor as you practice saying it.

Tomorrow's Verse: Fasten on the belt of truth. Ephesians 6:14, ESV

Practice tomorrow's verse if time permits. Say the new verse together several times and try the challenge again.

Part 2: Go and Do

1. Praise God for all the good things you can think of because every good thing is given to us by the ruler of the good kingdom—God.
2. Play a game of opposites that shows the difference between the two kingdoms. A grown-up says one, then the child says the opposite. Examples: God, Satan; good, bad; laughing, crying; tells the truth, lies; kind, mean; for us, against us; light, dark.
3. Draw a picture of a good castle and a bad castle. Put yourself in front of the one you want to belong to.
4. With someone's help, check AnswersVBS.com/KCKids for fun information.

Ask yourself this question: Which kingdom do I want to be a citizen of?

Optional Song: I'm in the Lord's Army

If you like to use songs in your teaching, here's a fun song to incorporate into any part of your day.

I may never march in the infantry (March in place.)

Ride in the calvary (Ride a horse.)

Shoot the artillery (Take a pretend shot.)

I may never zoom over the enemy (Fly a plane.)

But I'm in the Lord's army, yes sir! (Salute.)

I'm in the Lord's army, yes sir! (Salute.)

I'm in the Lord's army, yes sir! (Salute.)

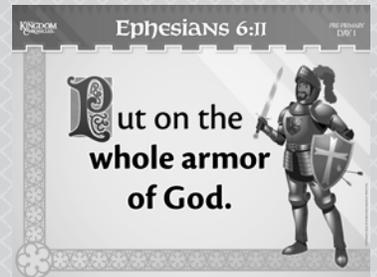
I may never march in the infantry (March in place.)

Ride in the calvary (Ride a horse.)

Shoot the artillery (Take a pretend shot.)

I may never zoom over the enemy (Fly a plane.)

But I'm in the Lord's army, yes sir! (Salute.)



♣ Put the theme memory verse poster up before class. Then each day, arrange that day's memory verse poster around the theme memory verse poster.

♣ We used the English Standard Version of the Bible for the Day 2 verse because it uses the phrase "belt of truth" which is more consistent with the phrasing used for the other pieces of armor in this passage.