

Think Truth

DAY 4

BIBLE PASSAGES

Ephesians 6:16–17; 1 Kings 2–11

VICTORY VERSE

Take the shield of faith. Ephesians 6:16

RHYME TIME

Win against sin!

LESSON FOCUS

The Bible shows us how to avoid sin. We need to be on guard to win against sin.

Today's Exploration Stations

- Coloring Corner: Ephesians 6:16
- Touch Table: Keep Out!
- Dramatic Play: Inside the Castle
- Discovery Center: Glittery Play Dough

Today's Lesson at a Glance

- Lesson Time
Part 1: Puppet Pal—Shield and Helmet
Part 2: King Solomon
- Song Time
Song 1: "Oh, Be Careful Little Eyes"
Song 2: "The B-I-B-L-E"
- Memory Verse/Review Time
Part 1: Victory Verse
Part 2: Go and Do

Preparing for the Lesson

- Read 1 Kings 2–11 and Ephesians 6:10–18 several times.
- Read this lesson several times and prepare the materials.
- Pray.

LESSON MATERIALS FROM TEACHER RESOURCE PACK

- Memory verse poster
- Daily overview poster
- King Solomon poster

FROM TEACHER RESOURCE CD-ROM

- Day 4 memory verse coloring sheet (Expl. Station)
- 2 copies of today's puppet script

OTHER MATERIALS

- Bible or children's Bible
- Medieval costumes for teachers
- Exploration Station supplies (see back cover)
- Treasure chest
- Birthday hat or party blower
- Mini foil belt, breastplate, shield, and helmet (see page 44)
- Puppet and clipboard
- Armor of God demonstration pieces (see page 46)
- Optional: Student guides and supplies (see page 46)
- Optional: Day 4 Armor of God card, 1 per child

Devotion 4

Think Truth

Mercy and truth preserve the king, and by lovingkindness he upholds his throne. (Proverbs 20:28)

Truth is relative. (Are you *absolutely* sure?) When we get involved with people on a personal level (as we should!), experiences and emotions can cause us to lose sight of the absolute standard as we begin to rationalize and reason away that standard: “They’re so nice, can I really say that what they’re doing is wrong? Maybe it’s okay for them, just not for me.”

When David passed his kingdom to his son Solomon around 1000 BC, he reminded him of the command the Lord had given “to walk before Me in truth with all [your] heart and with all [your] soul” (1 Kings 2:4). Soon after, when the Lord promised to give Solomon whatever he asked for, Solomon asked for wisdom—the ability to think clearly about the truth. And the Lord granted his request, as evidenced by the thousands of proverbs and songs Solomon wrote and the judgments he rendered. Solomon also knew the truth about God’s tangible creation—birds, creeping things, fish, and trees (1 Kings 4:30–34).

But somewhere along the way, Solomon began to allow his affections and attachments to the women (many women!) in his life to blur the lines between right and wrong, truth and error. Can you hear him begin to rationalize his behavior? “Sure, I know you don’t want me to marry foreign women, Lord, but I can handle it. That command is for others—not for me.” Sadly, as he allowed himself to be

influenced by his wives, he built altars for their false gods . . . and eventually joined them in worshipping at the feet of idols.

The helmet of salvation guards our minds and the way we think while the shield of faith helps us deflect temptations. Solomon neglected both of these vital pieces of armor. Solomon, the one who wrote, “Let not mercy and truth forsake you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart” (Proverbs 3:3), denied the absolute truth and turned away from the One who is truth.

We must never be satisfied with our current knowledge of the Christian faith but need to be continually studying God’s Word, so that when the devil lobbs his lies in our direction, we can easily deflect them with the shield of faith. And with the helmet of salvation firmly in place, we can guard what we put into our minds. Things we watch on TV, read in books, hear from our friends, learn from our teachers should all be evaluated against the standard of truth found in the Bible before we allow ourselves to meditate on it and allow it to sink into our souls. May we take refuge in the truth of the Lord and His Word as the psalmist did: “He shall cover you with His feathers, and under His wings you shall take refuge; His truth shall be your shield and buckler” (Psalm 91:4).

Exploration Stations

Coloring Corner: Ephesians 6:16

MATERIALS

- Day 4 memory verse coloring sheet (Teacher CD-ROM)
- Markers or crayons in a wooden bowl or metal pail
- Optional: Additional supplies

PRE-PREP

Photocopy the coloring sheet, 1 per child.

DIRECTIONS

Color the sheet. Add additional items if desired.

TEACHING TIE-IN

Practice saying the Bible verse on the page. Discuss its meaning.

Touch Table: Keep Out!

MATERIALS

- Touch table and tarp
- Optional: Water (or any other day's base materials)
- Funnels, scoops, colanders
- Bucket with small rocks

PRE-PREP

Put clean water or other base material in the table and the bucket of rocks on one side of the table.

DIRECTIONS

Pour the rocks (and water, if using it) into the colanders and funnels. Try not to let any of the rocks get into the clean water (or whatever is in the touch table).

TEACHING TIE-IN

Let's pretend the rocks are bad things from the bad kingdom. Let's try to keep them out of the good water (or whatever), which we'll pretend is the good kingdom.

Dramatic Play: Inside the Castle

MATERIALS

- Day 1 dramatic play materials
- Shields and helmets (see Pre-Prep)

PRE-PREP

Make shields from pizza rounds or sturdy disposable plates. Gather hats of any kind and add these supplies to the play area. Or make your own helmets by spray painting fast food chicken buckets silver, then cutting an

area out for the face. You may want to leave a strip that comes down and guards the nose, like many real knight helmets.

DIRECTIONS

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

TEACHING TIE-IN

Remember what the shield is called? The shield of faith! And how about the helmet? The helmet of salvation! These are two more pieces of the armor God gives to protect us.

Discovery Center: Glittery Play Dough

MATERIALS

- Homemade or store-bought play dough with glitter in it
- Heart and circle cookie cutters

PRE-PREP

Make or gather play dough. If making the play dough, make one or more batches to fit your needs.

RECIPE

2 c. flour	2 t. oil
½ c. salt	Food coloring
2 c. warm water	Glitter
4 t. cream of tartar	

Mix the first five ingredients in a saucepan. After blended, mix in food coloring. Stir over low to medium heat until the dough is formed and is no longer sticky. Remove from the pan and knead until smooth, adding the glitter. (The bigger flakes work great if you have them!) After it has cooled, store in an air-tight container.

DIRECTIONS

Make hearts and circles (shields) with the play dough.

TEACHING TIE-IN

Look how glittery and sparkly this play dough is! What do hearts remind you of? Make a heart to remind you that Jesus loves you. What do circles remind you of? Make a circle to remind you of a shield—the shield of faith that protects you.

Note: The glittery play dough will be a big hit, so you may want to use it other days as well, with other thematic cookie cutters, such as crowns (for King Jesus, King Josiah, King Solomon), animals (for the Creator King), or crosses. You can also roll it into a belt shape (like a "snake") or a sword for armor pieces.

LESSON TIME (10 minutes)

Part 1: Puppet Pal—Shield and Helmet

Teacher: Huzzah! Hooray! I'm glad to see all of you today in the Learn-a-Lot Chambers! Do you think we can get Christian to visit again? Take responses, then have the kids call for him.

Puppet: Come up with a foil belt and breastplate on. Also have the mini shield strapped on. **Hey, everyone! Look what I've got!**

Teacher: Well, I see you have your belt on. What's that belt called, boys and girls? Take responses.

Puppet: It's my belt of truth. God's Word is true!

Teacher: And you have your breastplate on. What's the breastplate called, kids? Take responses.

Puppet: The breastplate of right(eousness). When I learn the Bible, it helps me to do right.

Teacher: But now I'm wondering what you're holding there.

Puppet: That's the next piece of armor. It's called the shield of faith.

Teacher: That's really important to have because it will protect you. You see, the knights always carried great big shields into battle because the shield protected them from flaming arrows.

Puppet: I'm not going to have real flaming arrows come my way, am I?

Teacher: No, but the Enemy sends invisible flaming arrows to try to get you to disobey God's commands.

Puppet: I sure don't want the Enemy's arrows to hit me.

Teacher: That's why you need your shield and another piece of armor too—a helmet. Stick the prepared helmet on the puppet's head at this point.

Puppet: How do I look?

Teacher: You look ready. Now that you have your shield of faith and your helmet of salvation, you're protected from the arrows the Enemy will throw your way.

Puppet: How does he throw arrows at us?

Teacher: Well, they aren't real arrows, but as I said, he tries to get you to mess up by sinning.

Puppet: What's sin again?

Teacher: Sin is when you don't obey God's commands. Any time the Enemy gets you to make bad choices and disobey God's commands, he gets you to sin. Let's take a look at how the Enemy got a very wise king in the Bible to sin. Here we go.

- Medieval costumes for teachers
- Boy or girl puppet and clipboard
- 2 copies of today's script (Teacher CD-ROM)
- Mini foil belt, breastplate, shield, and helmet

PRE-PREP

1. Make a mini shield by covering a plastic margarine lid with foil and putting a piece of duct tape on the back for the puppet's hand to go through.
2. Fashion a mini helmet out of foil that will fit on the puppet's head when the script calls for it.
3. Tape one script inside the puppet stage and attach the other to a clipboard for reference.

♣ Remind the kids that the armor of God is only for those who are children of the heavenly King.

♣ You may want Christian to come back and sing with you during Song Time.

Part 2: King Solomon

Pull the Bible out of the treasure chest and open it to 1 Kings 2–11. Also, pull out a birthday hat or party blower or another birthday item.

Let's sing "Happy Birthday" and pretend to blow out the birthday candles on our pretend cake. Do so. Did you make a wish? What did you wish for? Take responses.

Well, right here in the Bible (point to the spot) God said to a king named Solomon, "Ask! What shall I give you?" What do you think he answered? Take responses. King Solomon didn't ask to be rich or to live for a long time. He asked to be wise, which means to know the right thing God wants you to do. Do you think that was a good wish? Jump up and down if you think it was.

Yes, that was a good wish. In fact, God was so glad that Solomon asked to be wise, He made Solomon wise *and* gave him riches and long life!

So Solomon became known as the wisest man ever. He loved God and he knew how to make good choices. Do you think that was good? Jump up and down if you think it was.

God told Solomon not to collect gold, or silver, or horses. But Solomon started collecting lots and lots of gold and silver and horses. Do you think that was good? Jump up and down if you think it was or pound on the floor if you think that was bad.

God also teaches us that He wants marriage to be between one man and one woman, as Adam did with Eve in the beginning. But Solomon didn't listen. He married many wives from the bad kingdom. Show King Solomon poster. Do you think that was good? Jump up and down if you think it was good or pound on the floor if you think it wasn't good.

No, that wasn't good. Solomon wasn't wearing his shield of faith and helmet of salvation. He was making bad choices.

God told Solomon, "Because you haven't kept My commands, I will take the kingdom away from you and give it to your servant." And that's exactly what happened. His kingdom was taken away. Solomon's life started out well, but it didn't end well because he let his guard down and sinned. We want to win against sin! Hold up the daily overview poster and have them repeat after you.

SONG TIME (5 minutes)

Song 1: Oh, Be Careful Little Eyes

Oh, be careful little eyes what you see

(Point to your eyes.)

Oh, be careful little eyes what you see

(Point to your eyes.)

For the Father up above (Point up to God.)

Is looking down with love (Put your hand over your eyes and look down.)

Oh, be careful little eyes what you see

(Point to your eyes.)

Other verses:

Oh, be careful little ears what you hear

(Point to your ears.)

Oh, be careful little mouth what you say

(Point to your mouth.)

Oh, be careful little feet where you go

(Point to your feet.)

- Bible or children's Bible
- Treasure chest
- Birthday hat or party blower
- King Solomon poster (Teacher Resource Pack)
- Daily overview poster (Teacher Resource Pack)



Song 2: The B-I-B-L-E

The B-I-B-L-E (While scrunched down, pretend to hold a book.)

Yes, that's the book for me (Continue.)

I stand alone on the word of God (Stand up straight and tall.)

The B-I-B-L-E (Continue.)

BIBLE! (Shout this as loud as possible.)

MEMORY VERSE/REVIEW TIME (5 minutes)

Complete one or more of the following ideas in class. These are also on the *Toddler Student Guides* and can be done at home with a parent or caretaker if you are out of time.

Supplies for this section are not included 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: Take the shield of faith. Ephesians 6:16

Show the Day 4 Armor of God card with the Bible verse on the back. If you plan to give this collectible to the toddlers, they will receive it at the end of the day. Then do the challenge using today's memory verse poster as a reference.

Challenge: Practice the verse several times, pretending to take up the shield of faith and the helmet of salvation as you say it.

Part 2: Go and Do

1. Act out the account of King Solomon (1 Kings 2–11). What can you learn from his life?
2. Find different hats to put on. Remind yourself when you put on a hat to wear the invisible helmet of salvation to protect your mind.
3. Sing "Oh, Be Careful Little Eyes" as you remember to guard yourself with the shield of faith.
4. Make up a song with today's Bible verse.

- Optional: Student guides and supplies for Part 1 and Part 2
- Optional: Day 4 Armor of God card, 1 per child
- Armor of God demonstration pieces
- Memory verse poster (Teacher Resource Pack)



✦ If you purchased the student guides, the troupe leaders can pass them out at the end of the day to the parents or caretakers.