## Back to School (Sunday School Lesson) Armor of God

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Reader Submitted

August 25, 2011

Print this Back to School lesson for Sunday School to help prepare them for the first day of school!

Going back-to-school is an exciting and challenging time for kids. They can make new friends, adjust to new teachers, and get back to a more structured lifestyle. It can also be a time of testing for their faith. This free Bible lesson will helps school children find strength in Jesus Christ when challenges arise. This teaching plan deals with issues such as temptation and resisting Satan's lies.



Back To School Bible Lesson for Kids

\*This is a guest post by Lindsey Whitney from Growing Kids Ministry.

**Lesson Title**: The Armor of God (at school) **Bible Lesson Reference**: Ephesians 6:10-20

**Target Age Group**: Kindergarten – 5th grade (can be adapted for youth ministry)

**Learning Context**: Sunday School or Kids Church

**Target Time Frame**: 30 minutes

#### **Supplies You Will Need:**

- Bucket and strips of paper: Put inside the bucket common struggles for kids such as:
   Not doing homework correctly, leaving someone out, talking bad about someone, not
   listening to a teacher, being selfish with your stuff, not helping others, making fun of
   others, etc
- Items to represent those listed in the Armor of God (belt, helmet, sword, shield, shoes, breastplate). Look for toy versions of these items or make props from cardboard. For a simple alternative, use cutouts from this <u>Armor of God activity</u>.

Bonus Ideas (free resources from other websites): Coloring Pages, Puzzles, Games, Songs, and Other Activities

- Children's Ministry Magazine has a great list of <u>9 Back To School activities</u> for kids. They have fun games, craft ideas, and activities that children will love.
- Sermons 4 Kids: Group Activities / Crossword / Word Search / Worship

Bulletin: (DOC) (PDF)



Download our Free Back To School Coloring Pages

## Children's Bible Lesson: Back to School Sunday

Well, kids – it's here, the start of school! Some of you are already in school (raise your hand if that's you), some of you are just about to start (raise your hand if that's you) and some of you are waiting another year before starting school.

One thing many people do to get ready for school is go school shopping. I love back-to-school shopping so much, I did a little myself. I got some glue (show glue), crayons (show), and some books for my daughter (show). Of course, that was just for fun. You probably needed all the things that you go while back to school shopping.

Well, I've been thinking... there's something everyone in this room needs for school that you probably haven't even thought about. You need it (point to a child), you need it, and you need. Everyone needs it!

What is it? It's the armor of God. Now, don't sweat it if you've never heard of the armor of God. That's what we'll be talking about tonight! If you've brought your Bible with you, you'll find the armor of God in Ephesians 6, and that's what we'll be reading from tonight (pause to let kids find it in their Bibles).

Okay, we'll be starting in verse ten. Would someone like to read that? (Allow child to read) Hey, that sounds like a song we sang tonight, huh? So, God wants us to be strong, and He tells us how to do it too! In the very next verse, verse 11, the Bible tells us to put on the full armor of God so that we can stand against the devil's tricks.

### Bucket of Trouble - New School Year Can Be Hard

Now, you may be wondering what kind of things the devil might try to trick you into doing. To help us out, we've got this bucket of tricks... (put inside the bucket common struggles for kids such as: Not doing homework correctly, leaving someone out, talking bad about someone, not listening to a teacher, being selfish with your stuff, not helping others, making fun of others, etc). I'm going to pull a few out and I want you to think about if this thing is something maybe the devil tried to trick YOU into doing. (Pull out a few and read, pause to allow kids to think)

So, there are all kinds of tricks we need to be prepared to fight against. That's why we need God's armor! Let's keep reading for more instructions. Verse twelve tells us our struggle is not against flesh and blood but against spiritual forces. Even if you attend a Christian school, you need God's help everyday. The Bible gives us some awesome equipment

Have you guys ever seen one of those cartoons with a little angel on one shoulder and a little devil on the other? No?

### Armor of God Coloring Pages PDF - Download

Coloring page illustration of the Armor of God



Bible Application: You Can Wear God's Armor Back to School

We've got to get ready for battle!

Now, if my assistant could come up (have adult leader or kid come to help), we'll get this armor on!

Let's check out verse 14 - can someone read it for me?

So, we start with the belt of truth – hand belt to assistant (you can try to be realistic or give them a crazy belt to wear). In order to fight the devil, we've got to know the truth. Where can we find the truth? (Kids respond). That's right, in the Bible! (Hold up your Bible) So, all you have to do is carry this around, maybe stick it in your book bag, maybe stuff it under your pillow and you'll be all set, right? NO! You've got to READ it to know the truth. Maybe read one verse or one chapter a day... read it by yourself or with your parents... read it at breakfast or dinner, or at bedtime – whatever you choose, the important thing is that you (help me out kids): READ IT!

Okay, now the breastplate of righteousness (stick on volunteer). Who can tell me what righteousness is? Doing the RIGHT thing. Sometimes it's hard to know what the right thing is. Sometimes you don't feel like doing the right things. What do you think we can do if that happens? (Read the Bible, ask our parents, ask a teacher, pray about it, ask the pastor).

You've got to have something on your feet. In verse fifteen, it says to have feet shod (put some shoes on) with the readiness that comes with the gospel of peace. Now, this was a little confusing to me – so I took out my cool Bible tool, the commentary and read what it said about this verse.

(Read from NIV Application Commentary) It says:

- It also means a readiness for all of life, being careful about speech and actions
- Also, showing peace and love to others

Well, it wouldn't be complete armor with a shield – verse sixteen says to take up the shield of faith so we can fight off Satan's attacks. Now, back in the day – those shields were huge! My Bible commentary says about 4 feet by 2 ½ feet (try to show kids dimensions). And many times soldiers would line up next to each other and put their shields really close so nothing could get by. When they did this, they could push right over the enemy and not get hurt. We can learn something from that kids!

Sometimes we need more than just ourselves to fight against the devil. That's why it's important to choose good friends that will stand and fight with you. Friends who are also trying to do the right thing.

Our suit of armor is almost complete. Let's take a look at what we've got so far.

•	First, we've got the belt of	(truth). Right! And where do we find truth?
•	Next, we've got the breastplate of	(righteousness). Very good. What
	does righteousness mean?	
•	Okay, here our feet are fitted with	(readiness).
•	• We're holding the shield of	(faith). And who do we have faith in?
	(God) It is our relationship with God, our faith, that protects us from evil attacks.	

Our last two pieces are the helmet of salvation (put helmet on volunteer) and the sword of the Spirit (give sword to volunteer) and both are very important!

Our heads are pretty important, that's why you have to wear a helmet for so many things. Riding a bike? You need a helmet! Skateboarding? Same thing! Playing football? Strap that helmet on! What are some other things we need helmets for? (Allow kids to respond). We wear helmets for all these things because our heads need protected! Our brain is pretty important! Likewise, salvation is our ultimate source of protection. When we are saved, we are a child of God, and we are able to see the tricks of Satan better.

I'm reminded of a movie... in the movie, one of the characters can control other people's minds. He can read their thoughts and even make them do things. However, another one of the characters – Magneto, makes a helmet to protect his mind. Whenever he had the helmet on, the professor couldn't read his thoughts. The helmet of salvation is like that. When we are saved, friends with God, Satan has a much harder time making us do bad things.

Last, we've got the sword of the Spirit, which the Bible tells us is the Word of God. We can fight Satan with the Word of God, the Bible! That's why it's important to memorize Scripture. When Satan tries to tell us to start a rumor about someone we don't like, we can think of the verse that says, "Love your Enemies". When Satan tries to tell us to blow off our homework and not do a good job, we can think of the verse that says "And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus..." (Col 3:12). And if you can't think of a verse, what Cool bible tool can you use? (Concordance)

I want us to read the last verse of this passage too, to finish out. Can someone read verse 18 for me? What does it command us to do? Pray! So, let's head to prayer circle and do just that!

## "Back To School" Supplies Object Lessons

**Backpack** – You can carry God's Word with you. "Your word I have treasured in my heart, That I may not sin against You." Psalm 119:11

**Pencil & Paper** – You can write out Bible verses to remind you of God's love.

"Bind them on your fingers; Write them on the tablet of your heart."
Proverbs 7:3

**Eraser** – God's forgiveness erases my mistakes.

"Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you." Ephesians 4:32

**Crayons** – God created this wonderful world in color for us to enjoy. He also gave us the rainbow to remind us of His promise to us.

"When the bow is in the cloud, then I will look upon it, to remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." Genesis 9:16

**Tape** – Tape helps to bind a ripped page just like we as the Word of God can bind hurts. "The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound." Isaiah 61:1

**Water Bottle** – Water is refreshing can quenches your thirst. Jesus is the living water that is eternal.

"Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again; but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never thirst; but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life." John 4:13-14

**Books** – God's Word is THE most important book we have. Math and English are important, but they are not eternal.

"All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work."

2 Timothy 3:16-17

**Teacher** (picture of or doll dressed like one) – Our teachers in school guide our learning just like our teachers at church (Sunday School teachers, preachers, etc.) guide our understanding of what the Bible says.

"Train up a child in the way he should go,

Even when he is old he will not depart from it."

Proverbs 22:6

**Friends** (pictures of or dolls) – Everyone wants to have friends, but we need to make sure we choose wisely.

"Do not be deceived: Bad company ruins good morals."

1 Corinthians 15:33

"The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but a wise man listens to advice." Proverbs 12:15

**Lunchbox** – A lunchbox carries our lunch. It can remind us of the fruit of the spirit that we can carry with us at all times.

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law."

Galatians 5:22-23

**Clothes** – Getting new clothes is an exciting time for most kids. We need to clothe ourselves with Christ. Just remember, WWJD (What What Jesus Do?).

"Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh."

Romans 13:14

We hope you enjoy this free resource.

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I'm Tony Kummer - I started this website in 2007, but God is using it beyond my imagination. The mission is simple.

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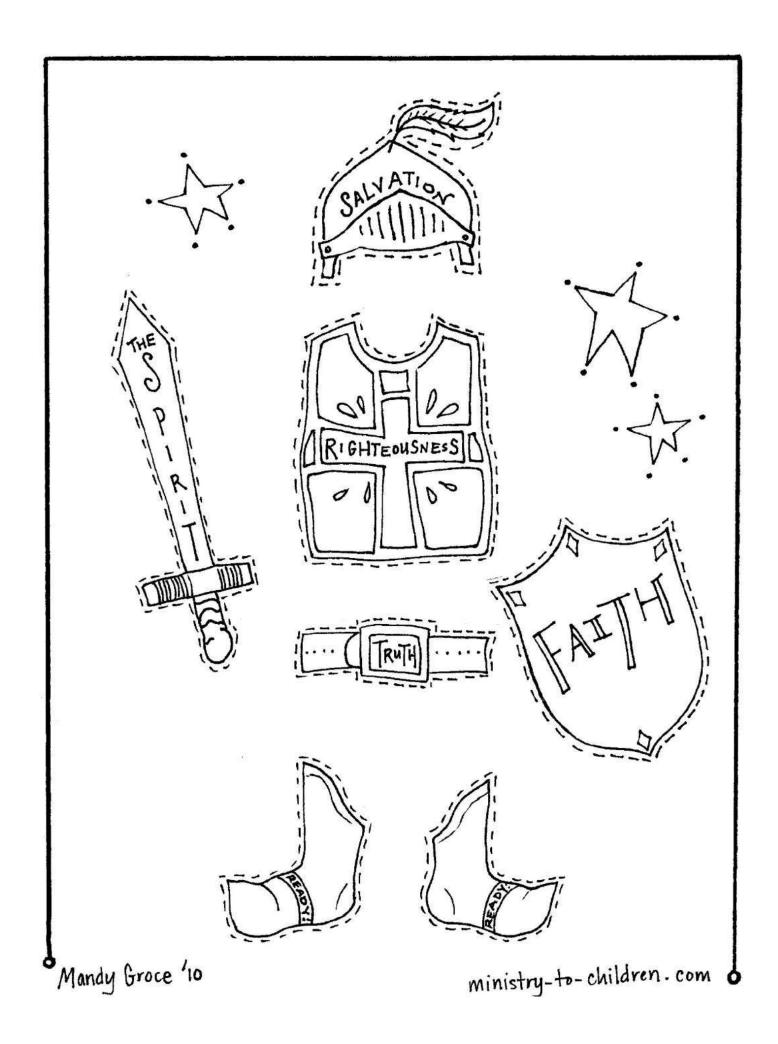
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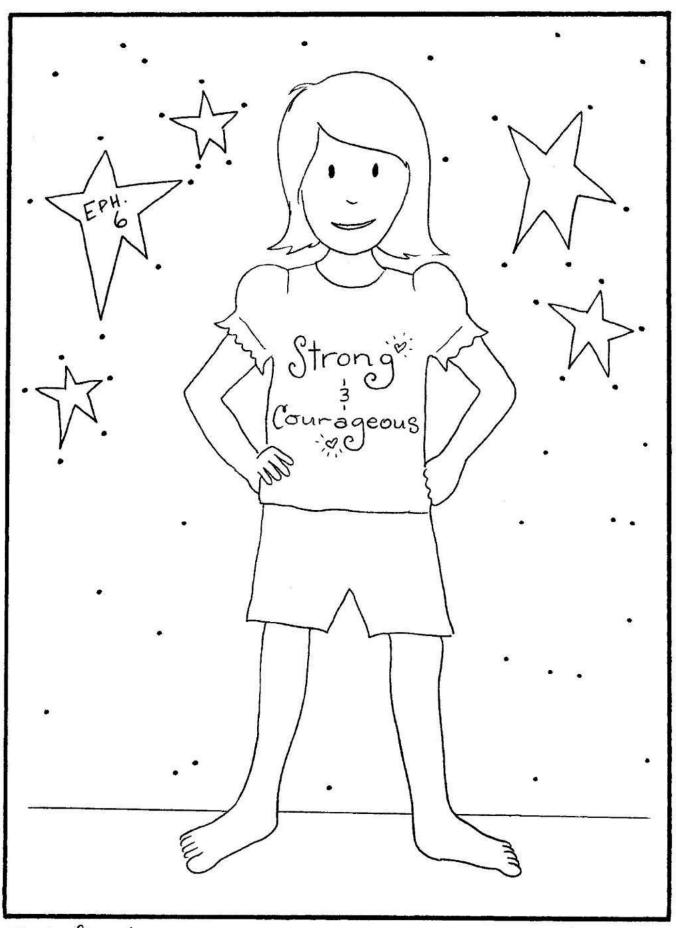
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