

Day Four

Shield of Faith

Prayer

Dear God thank you for the great lessons you have been sharing with us this week. I pray that you would continue to keep us energetic and focused as our week in Bible Boot Camp comes to a close. Help us to learn how to use your Shield of Faith to cover weaknesses in our lives. Thank you for the grace you have poured out onto us through your Son Jesus Christ. It's in your name we pray. Amen.

Lesson

Read Ephesians 6:16 and try to memorize Ephesians 6:11 by the end of the week.

Knights wear a lot of armor, don't they? It doesn't seem like there is any weakness in all that metal, but they still need to carry a shield. No matter how well protected a warrior may seem, there is always a weakness somewhere. All the enemy has to do is find the weakness and they will be able to take the enemy down. That's why warriors have shields. What makes the shield so unique? Unlike the other pieces of armor, the shield isn't strapped on to a certain part of your body. The shield can move to cover weaknesses in a warrior's armor and keep arrows from piercing through. Great warriors know how to use their shield to protect them from danger. We need to do the same thing with the Shield of Faith. Faith covers areas of our lives where we struggle with sins or where we just don't know the answer to a question.

Hebrews 11 talks tells us of people in the Old Testament who had faith to get through difficult situations, like when Abraham and Sarah trusted that God would provide them with a child. Then when God fulfilled this promise, He asked Abraham to sacrifice his son Isaac. Now think about how you would feel if you got something you really really wanted from God, and then you were told to give it back, you couldn't have it anymore? That's exactly what God asked Abraham to do. But Abraham knew that God wouldn't break His promise. He had faith that God would pull through. That's because GOD IS ALWAYS FAITHFUL.

Music Worship

Log onto <https://youtu.be/nWaT6wfdSKU> and watch and sing along to the music video.

Game: Faith Ball

Materials: Gator balls, Koosh balls, or Nerf Balls. A bunch of soft balls to throw at the children. One tennis racket per child.

Process:

- Line the privates up along a wall outside. Be sure it's one without windows.
- Give each private a tennis racket.
- Before you start, discuss different struggles they may have, like doubting God loves them. More of this will be covered in small group discussion, for now, just have them understand they all have weaknesses. Assure the kids that you don't mean the mean things you'll be saying, that it is just part of the game.
- All the teachers take the balls and throw them at the kids. Be careful how you aim. Avoid the face.
- The kids use the tennis rackets to keep the balls from hitting them. Shout out different doubts the kids could struggle with as you throw the balls. Things like, "thief! You stole that pen from your friend!" Or, "I know you cheated on your math test!" Or you can just call out "liar, cheater," and such if it's too noisy to hear full sentences.
- Be sure you keep the struggles age appropriate. The point is the rackets act like the shield of faith as you fend off doubts.
- If a kid is hit, they are out.
- The last man standing wins.
- Try to get every child though, for purposes of the discussion.

Game Discussion

So how does it feel to have your drill sergeant throwing things at you? How did it feel when you got out? (Allow students to respond.) It doesn't feel good to lose, does it? Did it make it harder that we were shouting different doubts at you? Was it harder to concentrate? (Allow students to respond.) Why do you think we were shouting, "liar, cheater, nobody loves you," and things like that at you? Did we really mean it? (Allow students to respond.) Satan does the same thing to us. He whispers cruel things to us to try to get us to turn away from God, to doubt God, or to sin. Sometimes the other pieces of armor just aren't enough to protect us from these things. So what do you think the tennis racket represented? (Allow students to respond.) That one's easy. In our game, the tennis racket was like the Shield of Faith, so while you may have heard the mean things, if your shield was in place, then you weren't hit by them. But what happened when your shield wasn't in place? (Allow students to respond.) That's right, you got hit. So do you all see why it's important to have the Shield of Faith?

Workbook Packet

Complete the workbook pages for day four that are appropriate for your child's level.

Closing Prayer

Dear God thank you for letting us have fun and spend time with you today. I pray that we would remember to take up the Shield of Faith every day to help us overcome any doubts and sins in our lives. Help us to remember that You are always faithful, even when we are not. Please bring us all back here safely tomorrow for the last day of Bible Boot Camp. Amen.