



Children's Prayer Revival

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Prayer Warriors

God's Special Forces

Children can be great Prayer Warriors.

They know the value of persistence. How many times have you told a child, "No"? "No." "I said, 'No.'" "This is the last time I'm telling you 'No.'" "Yes."

Children understand the role of an intercessor. "Grandma, will you ask Daddy for me?" "Ashley, it's your turn to ask. I asked the last time." "Teacher, will you call my parents and ask them if I can go?"

Children have faith—pure faith—untainted by the cynicism that comes with the years.

Children offer perfect praise.

Yes, children make great Prayer Warriors.

The goal of this Children's Prayer Revival is not to teach our children how to pray, but to inspire them to pray.

Jesus' disciples asked Him to teach them "to pray." We can get bogged down in methods of "how to pray," when Jesus simply wants us "to pray." Children know how to do that.

In our children's Sunday school classes, a great army of Prayer Warriors is waiting to march

on Satan's forces.

Let us equip our children with the whole armor of God and release them to volunteer for God's Special Forces, the Prayer Warriors.

Outreach

Use this Children's Prayer Revival to bring new families into the church.

Encourage the children to bring their friends. If the budget will allow, offer a piece of armor to every child who brings five visitors. Pentecostal Publishing House has a Crusader Set (#70-0-7577-1996-1) for \$9.99. It includes a breastplate, shield, helmet, and sword. A child who brings twenty visitors would have a complete set.

Advertise in your local paper. Put a spot on the radio. Many stations will do it as a public service at no charge. Post flyers around town (laundromats, grocery stores, anywhere there is a public bulletin board.) Get the word out.

The Staff

Captain Victor is the captain of the God's Special Forces, the Prayer Warriors. He is caring and patient (up to a point), bold and righteous.

Private Johnson is a soldier in training. He is learning . . . and learning . . . and learning. Putting on the whole armor of God is a challenge for him, but he perseveres. He provides comic relief against the seriousness of Captain Victor.

The teacher organizes the services, oversees the staff, delegates responsibilities to helpers, teaches (or assigns) the Illustrated Sermon, interacts with Captain Victor and Private Johnson, and sees that everything goes smoothly (well, as smoothly as possible).

If possible, have at least one helper for every eight to ten children. Helpers can keep records, lead singing, take charge of activities, assist with skits, transport children, and most important of all, pray with the children. They could wear a military cap or vest.

The Armor

Be creative when designing the Christian's armor. Here are some suggestions.

Belt—any bright or conspicuous belt.

Breastplate—an actual breastplate, a chest protector, an insulated vest.

Shoes—Boots.

Helmet—a bicycle helmet or see the instructions below for making a helmet.

Shield—cut from thin plywood or foam core and paint. Or use a garbage can lid.

Sword—make with cardboard and aluminum foil or buy a toy sword (some even have sound effects and lights).

Helmet. Take one Styrofoam bowl. Punch two holes directly opposite one another. Knot ends of elastic through the holes. Spray paint the helmet mossy green and brown. For an added touch, glue on decorator moss or leaves.

Décor

No special décor is required for this Children's Prayer Revival.

Armor of God Review Game

Create an Armor of God board. Divide a posterboard into six squares and paste a picture of one piece of armor in each square. If variety is needed, place an extra shape (such as a circle) in the middle of the board and write "Armor of God" or "Prayer Warriors" on it.

Here are several review activities to use with this board.

1. Each player tosses a beanbag at the poster. When it lands on a piece of armor, the player tells what the piece is and gets 100 points.

2. Divide the children into units. Each time a unit tosses the bag and it lands on a piece of armor, his unit writes one word of the memory verse (or *POWER line*) on the board. The first unit to complete the verse (or *POWER line*) wins.

3. Use the board after several pieces of armor have been taught. Each time a special unit's beanbag lands on a piece of armor, the players are asked a review question about that piece or to quote the verse that was taught that service.

4. The goal is to be the first (player or unit) to make a hit on every piece.

Get Parents Involved in CPR

- **Ask for help.** Contact the parents of the Sunday school children, either in person, on the phone, or through the mail. Ask for their help. The need to be needed is one of life's basic needs. Some parents who will never show up to be entertained will come to help if they know they are truly needed.
- **Prayer and fasting.** Before the Children's Prayer Revival set aside a day for prayer and fasting. Ask the church parents to commit to a special time of prayer and fasting for the children. The prayer revival is designed to motivate children to pray. If the children are to continue praying after the revival, they need their parents' support.
- **Prayer Buddies.** Post a list of the children who attend your Sunday school. The list should include each child's age and address. Ask the saints to choose Prayer Buddies from the list. The saint commits to pray for the child daily and send him/her notes of encouragement.
- **For all ages.** When promoting and advertising the Children's Prayer Revival, stress that it is for children of all ages. Encourage the adults to come. They are needed to model worship, to give balance to the services, and to pray with the children in the altar.

Children's Prayer Revival

Service 1

Gideon's Surprise Attack

Scripture Text: Judges 6, 7

Key Verse: "There is no restraint to the LORD to save by many or by few" (1 Samuel 14:6).

Lesson Objective: The war against evil forces is not won by numbers, but by God's power.

POWer Line: Little is much if God is in it.

Schedule

I. POWer of Worship (30-35 minutes)

A. Welcome/Theme Introduction (8-10 minutes)

- Welcome/Prayer by Pastor
- "I'm in the Lord's Army"
- Energy Outlet – Operation Praise

B. Praise Generators (5-6 minutes)

- "I Hear the Sound of the Army of the Lord"
- "God's Got an Army"
- "Little Is Much"
- *POWer line*

C. Prayer (8-10 minutes)

- Truth Conductor – Putting on the Armor
- "The Prayer Warrior's Battle Cry"

D. Testimony Time (4-5 minutes)

E. Offering (3-4 minutes)

- March and Give

II. POWer of the Word (25-30 minutes)

A. Memory Work (8-10 minutes)

- Energy Outlet – By Many or by Few
- B. Spirit Generator (2-3 minutes)
- Worship Chorus
- C. Illustrated Sermon (12-15 minutes)
- Gideon's Surprise Attack
- D. Invitation and Prayer (5-? minutes)
- E. Military Review

Supplies

- Band/military music (optional)
- Nametags
- Armor for Captain Victor and Private Johnson
- Microphone for off-stage voice
- Envelopes
- Index cards
- Velcro balls and dartboard (or similar item)
- Posterboard, whiteboard, or transparency and overhead projector
- (Optional – one per child) flashlights, large plastic cups, toy trumpets or kazoos.

Getting Ready

- Have a helper posted at the door to give each child a nametag. Private Johnson would be a good one to do this. Place a star (or any other designated mark) on the nametags of the children who do not have the Holy Ghost. This allows the altar workers to know which children need the Holy Ghost.
- Ask the pastor to be prepared to welcome the children and begin the Children's Prayer Revival with prayer.

- Write “The Prayer Warrior’s Battle Cry” on a poster, whiteboard, or transparency.

“The Prayer Warrior’s Battle Cry”

(chant)

Prayer Warriors! That's what we wanna be!

Prayer Warriors! We really wanna see

Some action! Prayin' down the walls!

We're listening! For when our leader calls!

Oh yeah! It's hard and heavy work!

Prayer Warriors! Our duty we won't shirk!

Prayer Warriors! Prayer Warriors!

Prayer Warriors!

- Captain Victor rehearses his maneuvers with the person giving commands off stage, his heavenward salute, the Truth Conductor with Private Johnson, and the Illustrated Sermon.
- Create two classified envelopes for each special unit, a group of five to fifteen children with a teacher/leader. Use plain envelopes labeled with large letters “Classified.” Determine how many special units are needed. Write each Operation Praise drill on an index card and place a card in a classified envelope. Each unit needs a different praise exercise. Here are some suggestions:

1. Lift your hands and praise the Lord for the wonderful things He has done for you.
2. Jump and shout, as you thank the Lord for the blessings in your life.
3. Shout praise words (i.e. praise the Lord; thank You, Jesus; glory to God).
4. Run up and down the aisle, shouting, “The Lord is great.”
5. Clap your hands and shout, “Hallelujah.”

- Go over the Operation Praise drills with the unit leaders. Determine where each unit will carry out their commands. The leaders must be wholeheartedly involved for Operation Praise to work.
- Increase the tempo of “Little Is Much” and create simple hand motions for the words such as *little* (cup hands together as if holding something small); *much* (throw hands open); *God* (point above); *labor not* (motions of hard work, while shaking head); *wealth or fame* (rub thumb and forefinger together representing money); *crown* (circle head with finger), *win* (run in place as if racing to the finish line); *Jesus’ name* (use sign language for Jesus).
- Gideon’s army’s weapons (pitchers, torches, and trumpets) can be imaginary. Or you could borrow flashlights; make a plea in the church bulletin for them. Attach a piece of masking tape with the owner’s name to each one. Bring large plastic cups for pitchers. Trumpets will be harder to come by. U. S. Toy and Oriental Trading Company (available online) have inexpensive ones. Or you could use kazoos. Or ask someone who plays a trumpet to provide a real trumpet blast.
- Prepare the index cards for the memory work. You need two cards for each special unit. Each card should have one key word from the memory verse written on it. Place two cards in each unit’s classified envelope. On a whiteboard draw blank lines, one for each word of the memory verse. Place several pieces of tape beside the board for the children to use to attach the index cards.

POWER of Worship

Welcome/Theme Introduction (8-10 minutes)

Begin the first service with upbeat band or military music. Or ask a musician to play “Onward, Christian Soldiers.” As the children are seated, the teachers mingle among them and welcome them to God’s Special Force, the Prayer Warriors.

The pastor opens the Children’s Prayer Revival with prayer.

Have the children sing a rousing, "I'm in the Lord's Army." At the last "Yes Sir," Captain Victor enters, dressed in full armor. Private Johnson wears all the pieces of his armor, except the girdle of truth and the breastplate of righteousness.

Captain Victor marches briskly to the front. Private Johnson stumbles after him, trying to march, but having trouble keeping in step. He makes quite a commotion, causing everyone to notice him. When they reach the front, Captain Victor stands at attention. Private Johnson, also called P. J., looks around, then seeing the captain's posture, quickly comes to attention.

An off-stage male voice gives military commands such as: Attention, Forward March, About Face, etc. Captain Victor follows the commands. P. J. tries, but he is usually one command behind. The last maneuver command is "Attention!" Captain Victor stands at attention, looks heavenward, and gives a proper salute to Jesus, his Commander-in-Chief. P. J. mimics him.

The voice commands, "At ease." Both relax. Private Johnson sighs loudly and retreats to the back of the room, where he remains until the Truth Conductor, "Putting on the Armor."

VICTOR: Boys and girls, I am happy to welcome you to God's Special Prayer Force. You have been recruited as Prayer Warriors, and my orders are to put you through the drills! First, we will do a special praise operation. It is a brilliant maneuver that outwits the enemy every time!

Energy Outlet—Operation Praise

Divide the children into units of five to fifteen. Assign a teacher/leader to each unit. The captain delivers a classified envelope to each unit.

VICTOR: I have orders for each special unit. It is quite important that we obey our Commander-in-Chief's directions completely, sincerely, and to the best of our ability. Each unit has a task, and it is important no matter how small it may seem. Please realize that the enemy is aware of our movements and can detect even the slightest insincerity or bit of foolishness in a soldier.

Take a moment and view your unit's orders. Each unit leader opens the orders, reads, and discusses with his soldiers what they will be doing.

At the command "Operation Praise," all the units will begin their drills. We will drill for two minutes. I will be viewing the field, watching for those who are doing their best.

Troops! Attention! Prayer Warriors, prepare for your drill! Allow the children to catch the feeling of importance. **Operation Praise!**

Soldiers begin to praise the Lord. The leaders get involved in the drill to model praise participation for the children. They play a vital role in demonstrating the importance of praise in the life of a prayer warrior.

Forward, troops! It puts the enemy on the run when we praise! One minute left of the praise drill.

Keep it up. Thirty seconds left.

That's right, troops! Fifteen seconds. Give it your all. Does countdown to zero.

Attention! Snaps to attention. The children join him. **Let us salute our Commander-in-Chief, who has been reviewing this praise drill.** Victor leads the children in looking heavenward and saluting Jesus. They return to their seats. If the members of the units were not sitting together, they should do so for the rest of the service.

Praise Generator (5-6 minutes)

Encourage the children to clap and praise as they sing.

"I Hear the Sound of the Army of the Lord"

"God's Got an Army"

"Let God Arise" (Psalm 68:1 was the Israelites' battle song. As they marched into battle, they sang, "Let God arise, let his enemies be scattered.")

"Little Is Much" (chorus only; use motions)

The POWER line is the first line of this chorus. "Little is much if God is in it." Say that with me, please. "Little is much if God is in it." God can do a powerful lot with a mighty little.

Prayer Time (8-10 minutes)

Truth Conductor—Putting on the Armor

VICTOR: **Time for Operation Salvation, Prayer Warriors.**

P. J. jumps to his feet and marches to the front. At least, he attempts to march. He gets his feet tangled up and stumbles often. He stops in front of the captain and salutes smartly.

P. J.: **Private Johnson reporting for duty, sir.**

VICTOR: Nods. **So I see. Private Johnson, Operation Salvation is a demanding assignment. Are you ready for it?**

P. J.: **Yes sir, Captain. I am as tough and ready as they come.** Attempts to straighten shoulders; trips over his feet and almost falls. **The other day the sergeant said that I am the best trainee in this boot camp.** Looks at the floor. Then peeks at the captain. **Well, he said that I am . . . uhhh . . . that I am . . . in this boot camp for training. That's pretty close to saying that I am the best.**

VICTOR: **Hummm . . . I'm looking for volunteers for Operation Salvation.**

P. J.: **Let me be the first to volunteer for this demanding assignment, sir. Just tell me what you need done, and I'll do it. Fearless Private Johnson at your bidding, sir.**

VICTOR: **You are assigned to reach into the enemy's territory and rescue those who are being held captive by sin.**

P. J.: Trembles. **Do you m-m-mean go b-b-behind enemy l-l-lines?**

VICTOR: **I do.**

P. J.: **But, Captain, t-t-that s-s-sounds d-d-dangerous.**

VICTOR: **It could be, if you do not have on the whole armor of God.**

P. J.: Looks down. **Oh, no problem there. I've got on my armor.**

VICTOR: **Really? Let's do an armor check. Teacher, will you read Ephesians 6:13-14 for us?**

TEACHER: Reads. **“Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth. . . .”**

VICTOR: **Hold it right there, please. Private Johnson, where is your girdle of truth?**

P. J.: **Girdle of truth? Oh, you mean, my belt? Well, you see, Captain sir, this other soldier borrowed it and he lost it and. . . .**

VICTOR: **Private Johnson!**

P. J.: **Looks at the floor. Yes Captain, sir.**

VICTOR: **The truth, please. Tell the truth.**

P. J.: **But, that’s hard to do when I don’t have on the girdle of truth.**

VICTOR: **I know. That’s why you need to wear the girdle of truth at all times. When you don’t tell the truth and you don’t obey the truth, you can get into lots of trouble. Without the girdle of truth, you cannot rescue anyone. You need to be rescued yourself.**

P. J.: **Well, the truth is . . . I didn’t know how to put it on so I just didn’t even try.**

VICTOR: **The girdle of truth is very important. Without truth, Satan can get you to do about anything . . . lie, steal, cheat, take drugs. . . .**

P. J.: **My, that’s serious. Let me run and get my girdle.**

Private Johnson runs out and quickly returns with his girdle. He fumbles with it, trying to put it on.

P. J.: **How do I put this thing on?**

VICTOR: **God’s Word is truth. Everyone say that with me.**

ALL: **God’s Word is truth.**

VICTOR: **You put on the girdle of truth by reading and learning God’s Word. Pray it aloud. Memorize it. Think about His Word often.**

P. J.: **Fastens on his girdle as he quotes. “Lead me in thy truth, and teach me” (Psalm 25:5).**

VICTOR: **Very good. To teacher. What’s the next piece of armor, Teacher?**

TEACHER: Reads. **“And having on the breastplate of righteousness.”**

P. J.: **Breastplate of righteousness?** Looks at his chest. Looks at the Victor and points at his breastplate. **Captain, is that your breastplate of righteousness?**

VICTOR: **It is.**

P. J.: Looks at his chest again. **Looks like that’s missing too. What’s it for, Captain?**

VICTOR: **To protect your heart from evil.** Brings out a Velcro dartboard and holds it against his chest. **Maybe this will help you understand. Throw these balls at the board while I hold it.**

P. J. throws the Velcro balls at the captain. They stick. Captain Victor removes the balls and hands them back to the P. J.

VICTOR: Puts the board behind his breastplate. **Now throw the balls at me.**

Private Johnson does so. The balls fall to the floor.

VICTOR: **The balls do not stick because the breastplate protects me. This is how righteousness works. When we obey God’s Word and do what is right, we put on the breastplate of righteousness. If we have on the whole armor of God, including the girdle of truth and the breastplate of righteousness, we do not have to be afraid of the enemy. His weapons cannot hurt us.**

P. J.: **Satan has Velcro balls? Man, I didn’t know that.**

VICTOR: **No, Satan does not have Velcro balls. The Bible calls his weapons “fiery darts.” They are not really darts like we think of them. But Satan’s darts are thoughts and words and feelings and sins that pierce our hearts and hurt us.**

P. J.: **I know about that. The other day I was . . . uhhh . . . never mind.**

VICTOR: **You were what?**

P. J.: **Oh, nothing.**

VICTOR: **I think you had better confess, Private Johnson.**

P. J.: **Well, I was on the Internet and these pictures just came up . . . and I . . . well, I knew I shouldn’t look at them, but I did anyway. I felt so dirty and bad after that.**

VICTOR: That was one of Satan's fiery darts. If you had been wearing the breastplate of righteousness and doing what was right, those darts wouldn't have hit your heart. Before you can go into Satan's territory to rescue others, you need to repent.

P. J.: Yes sir, Captain. I'd like to do that. I'm sick of feeling heavy and ugly inside.

The teacher takes charge. Boys and girls, maybe you feel like Private Johnson. Maybe you have done something that has really been bothering you, making you feel dirty and sinful. If so, you can repent right now. In a few minutes you can be feeling so much better.

Ask everyone to bow their heads and close their eyes. With no one looking but God and me, raise your hand if you want God to forgive you for something. Wait a few seconds for the children to respond.

You can put down your hand now. As we all pray, tell God what you did. Yes, God knows what you did, but you need to say it aloud so that dirty, sinful feeling will leave you. Then ask God to forgive you. Lead in prayer.

After prayer encourage the children to accept God's forgiveness and raise their hands in praise.

P. J.: I've got to go get my breastplate. I'll be right back. EXITS.

VICTOR: Now, we are ready to go into battle against Satan. First, let's sound our battle cry.

Private Johnson returns, wearing his breastplate as the captain is leading the children in chanting "The Prayer Warrior's Battle Cry."

Prayer Warriors! That's what we wanna be!

Prayer Warriors! We really wanna see

Some action! Prayin' down the walls!

We're listening! For when our leader calls!

Oh yeah! It's hard and heavy work!

Prayer Warriors! Our duty we won't shirk!

Prayer Warriors! Prayer Warriors!

Prayer Warriors!

Each special unit forms a prayer chain circle, by linking arms. In each unit the leader asks the children to name someone who needs to be rescued from sin. The units pray for those named in their circles.

The children return to their seats.

Testimony Time (4-5 minutes)

Ask for volunteers to tell about times when God's truth or righteousness helped them. Ask leading questions. **Has a memory verse ever kept you from making a mistake? Did you ever tell the truth when it was hard to do? Or tell us about a time when you did right although everyone else was doing wrong.**

You may need to testify to jump-start the children.

Offering (3-4 minutes)

Children are always more excited about giving if they know why they are giving. Share with them where their offering is going.

You might think that because you do not have a lot of money to give, you might as well not give anything. But remember the *POWER line*? Say it with me. "Little is much when God is in it."

Jesus can take what you give and multiply it. How many people did He feed with five loaves of bread (biscuits) and two fishes? Five thousand. He can multiply your offering, too. So give what you have and let God multiply it.

Ask the musician to play as the Prayer Warriors march and give.

POWER of the Word

Memory Work (8-10 minutes)

Energy Outlet—By Many or by Few

Help the children find I Samuel 14:6 in their Bibles. Read together the last portion of the verse, starting with "there is no restraint." Then ask each unit to read it aloud one time. **This means that**

there is no rule that says God has to have a certain number of people to win a battle or get a job done. He can work with many or with few.

Announce that all Bibles must be closed for this drill.

Give each special unit a classified envelope containing two key words from the memory verse. Show the whiteboard with the blanks on it.

Each unit sends one messenger at a time to the whiteboard with a word card. If the messenger knows where the card goes, he uses the tape along the side of the board to attach the word card to the blank where it belongs. If he does not know, he takes the card back to his unit, and a different messenger tries. No discussion is allowed while the messengers are at the board. However, each unit can discuss it at their seats.

When all the key word cards are in place, the units work together to fill in the remaining blanks.

God can use many or few to get His job done. Numbers do not limit God.

Spirit Generator (2-3 minutes)

Enter Victor praying aloud about a battle" that he is facing. He uses this style of prayer, but it can be in his own words.

Jesus, I praise You for being my Commander, the one in control of the whole battle. I know You will take care of me as I fight against sin. Forgive me when I don't obey Your orders. Please keep my heart clean and help me keep my breastplate of righteousness on firmly. May the girdle of truth cover me as I go onto the enemy's territory. I praise You before the battle is won because I know You will give me the victory!

After he prays, Victor leads the children in a worship chorus.

Illustrated Sermon

Gideon's Surprise Attack (12-15 minutes)

This Bible story uses the children extensively. Let them spread out and move about as much as possible.

What is the *POWER line*? Little is much when God is in it! Remember that. It is an important part of our Bible story.

Captain Victor, would you help us with this story, please? You can be the main character.

Victor steps forward.

Judges 6 starts by saying that the Israelites did evil. They worshiped idols instead of the one true God. They had taken off their breastplate of righteousness.

Victor looks alarmed.

How do we take off our breastplate of *righteousness*? Response. By doing evil—sinning, disobeying God. As long as we do *right*, the breastplate of *righteousness* protects our hearts. Doing right keeps us out of a lot of trouble.

Because the Israelites were not protected, their enemy, the Midianites, moved in and took a lot of Israel's land. Every year they would wait until the Israelites had gathered their harvest, and then they would steal it. They stole the Israelites' flocks and herds, too.

The Midianite army was huge! There were so many Midianites that they were like grasshoppers bouncing around in the summer! The Israelites were in trouble.

Finally, someone somewhere got smart and cried out to the Lord. God sent a prophet to tell them that they were in trouble because they had not obeyed the Lord. It was time for the Israelites to repent and start doing right.

Victor acts out Gideon's part.

One day Gideon was hiding from the Midianites, threshing wheat to make grain to feed his family.

Suddenly, a man stood near him and said, "The Lord is with thee, thou mighty man of valor."

Gideon was stunned. He certainly didn't feel brave and mighty. He was surprised to hear the next words, too. "Go in your might and save Israel from the enemy!"

Me? My might? You've gotta be kiddin. Gideon could not believe his ears.

He said, "You don't understand. My family is poor, and I am the baby of the family. I can't

save Israel.”

Gideon was just one person . . . one very unimportant person. At least, that’s what Gideon thought. He did not understand how he could go against the Midianites who were everywhere.

But God’s messenger assured him that God would be with him and give him a great victory.

Gideon still had questions about how God could use him. He had yet to learn our *POWer line*. What is it? Little is much if God is in it.

Gideon fixed God’s messenger a meal and placed it on a rock (the only table he had). The messenger touched it with his rod and PUFF! Fire came out of the rock and burned up the meal. Then the messenger vanished. That got Gideon’s attention!

Gideon knew that God was calling him to join God’s Special Forces. God had a special job for Gideon.

God told Gideon how to help Israel start doing right again.

In the night, Gideon rounded up ten helpers. Victor goes into the crowd and chooses ten children.

They crept over to the altar and idol of Baal and tore it down. Victor and helpers pretend to break down the idol.

Then they built an altar to the Lord God instead. They pretend to build an altar.

The next morning when the men of the city saw what Gideon had done, they were very angry! They came against Gideon, but what Gideon had done was right. Gideon was wearing his breastplate of righteousness, and God protected him.

Then the Spirit of the Lord came upon Gideon. Suddenly, he did things he never thought he would do. He blew a trumpet and called the men of Israel to form an army. It was time to go against the mighty enemy that was terrorizing Israel.

Victor blows a pretend trumpet and goes out among the children, gathering his army. Allow as many children as possible to join him and march around the room.

The Commander-in-Chief looked down from heaven and saw how many men there were in Gideon's army. His next command shocked Gideon. "You have too many men in your army. If you win, Israel will say, 'We saved ourselves.' Tell everyone who is afraid to go home."

Gideon knew that if he was going to win he had to have God's help. That meant obeying God, even when he did not understand God's orders. Victor looks up to the Lord in question.

He went through the army and sent home everyone who was afraid. He goes among the crowd and tells about half of the children sit down.

Twenty-two thousand men went home! Victor acts like he is counting the army. **That left only 10,000 men against a huge army with many more soldiers than that.**

The Commander-in-Chief looked down from heaven and saw how many soldiers were left. "Still too many," God said. "Take them to the water for a test."

Victor leads his troops to a pretend stream. **The soldiers went to the water and began to drink. Some cupped water in their hands and sipped it while standing. Others bent down and drank from the brook.**

Victor tells the children to take a drink by bending down to the water or by cupping their hands and sipping.

The Commander-in-Chief then said, "Anyone who cupped the water in his hands stays. The rest can go home." The children who bent down to the water return to their seats.

Now Gideon's army was down to 300 men. He was getting a little worried.

But the Lord promised that He would save Israel with these. He gave Gideon exact instructions on what to do.

Split into three groups. Give each child his weapons (toy trumpet, flashlight, and plastic cup). He puts his plastic cup over his flashlight. Or tell him to pretend to have a trumpet, an empty pitcher, and a torch. Victor demonstrates and places the men around the room. Dim the room lights as much as possible. Even if the weapons are imaginary, the lights should be dimmed.

The men put their torches inside of the empty pitchers to hide the lights, and then each unit took their place in the night around the enemy's camp. They held their trumpets in their

right hands and the torches inside the pitchers with their left hands.

Gideon commanded them, "When I blow my trumpet, you blow your trumpets, break the pitchers, and shout with me, 'The sword of the Lord, and of Gideon.'"

That is exactly what Gideon and his army did! When the trumpets blew (toodle-dee-toot) and the pitchers broke (plastic cups fly off), suddenly there was a great noise and the light of the torches burst through the dark (flashlights or room lights turned on). The soldiers shouted, (the children do so) "The sword of the Lord, and of Gideon."

What a surprise attack! It scared the Midianites half out of their senses. They went wild. They trampled over one another as they ran from the camp.

Little Gideon had a little army, but God did a powerful lot with a mighty little. He gave Gideon's little army a great victory.

Remember: Little is much when God is in it.

Thank your helpers and let them return to their seats.

Invitation and Prayer (5-? minutes)

What an awesome Bible story! Gideon was one little guy, the baby in his family, but as he followed God's instructions and received the help of God's Spirit, he became a mighty warrior in God's Special Forces.

The war against evil forces is not won by numbers, but by God's power. The Israelites were out-numbered, but they were stronger and smarter than their enemy. Why? Because God fought for them.

Satan wants you to be afraid and think like Gideon did, "I'm just one person. I'm the littlest of all. I can't do anything for God." With God, one little person can do great things.

Satan wants to discourage you from praying. "You can't be a mighty Prayer Warrior." Oh yes, you can! In prayer you can go behind the enemy's line and rescue those whom Satan has captured. God often uses children who will go to battle in prayer to win great victories.

Satan says, "You don't need the Holy Ghost. It's okay to talk dirty, to try dope, to disobey your parents. After all, you're just a kid." But, you do need the Holy Ghost. Being a kid is not

an excuse to sin. Through God's power, you can put on the breastplate of righteousness and the girdle of truth, and you can do what is right.

If you do not have the Holy Ghost, you need God's Spirit to give you strength to put on the whole armor of God.

Have an altar call. After the children who need the Holy Ghost have come to the front, ask for Operation Salvation volunteers to pray with the seekers. This is their opportunity to be real Prayer Warriors.

Military Review

The military review is a time-honored tradition to parade the troops before visiting dignitaries or high-ranking generals. Start now to train your soldiers for a military review during the last service. Decide now if this will be inside or out. Drill should be conducted in the place that the review parade will be held.

Choose a committee of "dignitaries" who can be present to review the troops. Include the pastor, elders, and leaders of your church.

Train a couple of soldiers to escort these dignitaries to the reviewing stand.

The troops should be drilled on marching as a unit, right foot first, arms swinging like pendulums on a grandfather clock, backs straight. If there is an ex-military man in your church, ask him to drill the troops. Here are some possible maneuvers: forward march, about face, company halt, company left or right, company kneel, praise the Lord, parade rest.

As the troops march, they say the *POWer line* from service 3 in cadence. **God and I make a majority.**

As the soldiers stand before the reviewing stand, they will chant "The Prayer Warrior's Battle Cry," so work that into the drills. It will be best if they have it memorized so they do not need copies.

Children's Prayer Revival

Service 2

Judah's Strange Weapons

Scripture Text: II Chronicles 20:1-30

Memory Verse: "For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds" (II Corinthians 10:4).

Lesson Objective: We win, not by fighting the enemy, but by praising God!

POWer Line: We win when we praise God!

Schedule

I. POWer of Worship (25-30 minutes)

A. Welcome (6-8 minutes)

- Prayer by Pastor
- Armor Check

B. Praise Generators (8-10 minutes)

- Energy Outlet – An Exercise Routine?
- Praise Choruses

C. Prayer (8-10 minutes)

- Truth Conductor – Calling Jesus
- Prayer – Talking to My Best Friend

D. Offering (5-6 minutes)

- Solve the Riddle
- March and Give

II. POWer of the Word (25-30 minutes)

A. Memory Work (8-10 minutes)

- Energy Outlet – Pop That Balloon

- Loosing Satan's Strong Hold
 - "The Prayer Warrior's Battle Cry"
- B. Spirit Generator (2-3 minutes)
- Worship Chorus
- C. Illustrated Sermon (10-12 minutes)
- Judah's Strange Weapons
- D. Invitation and Prayer (10-? minutes)
- E. Military Review

Supplies

- Nametags
- Armor for Captain Victor and Private Johnson
- 2 disposable cups, string
- Telephone
- Walkie-talkie
- 20 balloons, slips of paper
- "The Prayer Warrior's Battle Cry" (from the first service)
- Crown
- Index card
- Rhythm band instruments (optional)

Getting Ready

- Have a helper posted at the door to give each child a nametag. Again, place a star (or any other designated mark) on the nametags of the children who do not have the Holy Ghost.

- Make a fake telephone. Punch a small hole in the bottom of two disposable cups. Run each end of a string (about 10-feet long) through the holes and knot. This makes two “telephones” attached by a line.
- A great series called “Songs 4 Praise Kids” is available on CD at Christian retailers and Wal-Mart. There are at least two volumes. The blue volume has a wonderful song entitled “Every Move I Make.” This song is perfect for worship as it adds movement to the children’s praise.
- Write Jahaziel’s part on an index card. “Thus saith the Lord: Listen up, people. Don’t be afraid because a huge army is coming to attack you. The battle is not yours. It is mine! Tomorrow, when you go down to where the enemy is, you will not have to do anything. I will fight for you!” Give the card to a man or older boy to read during the Illustrated Sermon.

POWER of Worship

Welcome and Introduction (6-8 minutes)

Greet each child as he enters. Private Johnson or the helper posted at the door gives each a nametag.

Open with an official welcome by the pastor or Sunday school director. He starts the service with prayer.

The teacher takes charge.

Welcome to the second service of this CPR – Children’s Prayer Revival. Acknowledge guests by name, if possible.

Look around. **Now what happened to Captain Victor and Private Johnson? They were here just a minute ago. Let’s call for them to come out! Captain! Captain Victor! Private Johnson! P. J.? Where are you?**

Ask the children to applaud as they enter. The captain marches in, wearing the full armor. P. J. straggles in behind him, limping as he is barefooted. He carries a sword, but no shield.

VICTOR: In his military voice. **Attention!**

The children and Private Johnson stand at attention as Captain Victor gives the orders. You may need to try this several times until the children understand what is happening.

VICTOR: Welcome to the barracks of God's Special Forces, the Prayer Warriors. I am here to challenge all able-bodied children to join me in this important mission for the Lord. These services will teach you what you need to learn in order to be a part of God's Special Forces, the Prayer Warriors. You will also get the necessary equipment to complete this awesome mission.

TEACHER: That reminds me, Captain, before we go into battle, we need to do an armor check. What pieces of armor did we learn about in our last service?

Private Johnson waves his hand wildly until the teacher recognizes him. He volunteers what he learned about the girdle of truth and breastplate of righteousness. He makes several funny mistakes when describing what each piece does. The children should correct him. If they do not, the captain or the teacher can.

TEACHER: Later in this service we will talk about some other pieces of the Christian armor. Keep your ears open.

Praise Generator (8-10 minutes)

VICTOR: Private Johnson, don't these children look great?

P. J.: They sure do. Limpes around the room, looking closely at the children. Checks out a couple of boys' muscles. **They are good-looking enough, but they seem a little flabby. It appears that they are out of shape.**

VICTOR: Flabby? What do you mean?

P. J.: In boot camp, they make me exercise. Makes a big show of flexing his flabby muscles. **These guys need a good exercise routine. Let's see what they got. Attention!** The children come to attention, standing straight and quiet.

Let me see you do some stretches. Leads the children in stretches. Falls over and bumps his head a few times.

Now, for some jumping jacks. Bumbles his way through these.

Now everyone run in place. Come on, get those feet moving. Runs. **Ouch! That hurts!**

Oh, my poor feet.

VICTOR: **Stop! Freeze!** Everyone does so. **Private Johnson, where are your boots?**

P. J.: Looks at his feet. **My boots? Well, you see, it's like this . . . I don't like boots. They cramp my feet.**

VICTOR: **You must wear boots if you want to be part of God's Special Forces.**

P. J.: **But, Captain, I don't see why.**

VICTOR: **Can a soldier march without boots?**

P. J.: **Would be kinda hard, I guess.**

VICTOR: **Can a soldier do his best if his feet are hurting?**

P. J.: **I guess not.**

VICTOR: **Neither can God's soldiers fight without the boots of the gospel of peace. When they have on their spiritual boots, they are ready to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ.**

P. J.: **That means tell others about Jesus?**

VICTOR: **Right.**

P. J.: **Guess I'd better go get my boots.** Limpes toward the door. **Don't tell the Bible story until I get back. Okay?**

VICTOR: **You had better hurry.**

Private Johnson exits.

TEACHER: **Captain Victor, are these exercises necessary?**

VICTOR: **Oh yes. Staying in good physical condition is important for soldiers in God's army. I have an order from the Commander-in-Chief. He is looking for the bravest, smartest, and most fit soldiers to be part of the SWAT team.**

TEACHER: **The SWAT team?**

VICTOR: The Spiritual Warfare Attack Team. This is the best of the best, and I believe that these children have what it takes. But, first they must get in the best spiritual shape that they can.

So, praise is the key. Our *POWER line* is “We win when we praise God.” Let’s say that together. Do so several times. Praise is energetic and builds strong spiritual muscles.

Psalm 47:1 says, “O clap your hands, all ye people; shout unto God with the voice of triumph.”

Call for two or three praise singers to help lead the children in clapping and shouting.

Victor joins the praise team as they lead the children in two or three worship choruses.

Prayer Time (8-10 minutes)

Truth Conductor: Calling Jesus

The teacher or Victor leads this prayer time. Use the skit or simply ask the children about ways to communicate, whichever method is most beneficial to your group.

P. J. grabs two cups connected by a string. Talks into it and expresses frustration because there is no response.

TEACHER: Private Johnson, what are you doing?

P. J.: I am trying to talk to my Commander-in-Chief, Jesus. But, this phone seems to be out of order.

TEACHER: P. J., the problem is that you are not using the right equipment.

Private Johnson grabs a real telephone and attempts to dial a number. Again, this does not work. The teacher tells him that this phone will not work either. P. J. tries again with a walkie-talkie.

TEACHER: Private Johnson, you are going about it all wrong. You don’t need special equipment to talk to Jesus. All you need to do is talk to Him.

Call up a pair of best friends. **How do friends talk to each other? This way?** Look at them with your mouth tightly closed and grin. The children will say, “No, you open your mouth and talk!”

That is right. When you talk to your friend, you open your mouth and speak. You could call your friend on the phone or walkie-talkie. But the best way is face to face.

P. J.: **Face to face? Can we talk to Jesus face to face? Boy, wouldn't that be neat!**

TEACHER: **We can't see Jesus with our physical eyes. But we can see Him with our imagination – our spiritual eyes. Raise your hand if you believe that Jesus is here right now. Response. So we can talk to Him just like we talk to our friends? Yes.**

Place two chairs so the ones sitting in them will be facing. Invite P. J. to have a seat. **Private Johnson, I want you to imagine that Jesus is sitting in that chair facing you. What do you want to tell Him? Just talk to Him.**

P. J.: Responds by talking to Jesus (eyes open). He tells Jesus about something good that happened to him recently. He asks Jesus to help him apologize to a friend. He talks about a loved one who is sick. Keeps it fairly brief, but warm and friendly.

Gets up. **That was great. I didn't know that praying was that easy. I thought you had to say a hundred "Hallelujahs."**

TEACHER: **Hallelujah is a wonderful word to say when you praise God. But there are many different ways to pray. Just like you can communicate with your best friend on the phone, by walkie-talkie, or face to face.**

When you want to talk to Jesus, just pull up a chair like Private Johnson did. Invite Jesus to have a seat. Sit down and talk to Him.

If possible, have the children and staff members spread out so there is an empty chair (or space on the pew) beside each one. If this is not possible, tell them to imagine that there is a chair facing them. Encourage each one to imagine that Jesus is sitting there smiling. While the music plays (to cover the prayers and give more privacy), everyone (including the teacher) talks to

Jesus.

The adults should model this kind of communication. The children may be a bit reluctant to do this before their friends. The musician should be sensitive to the prayer atmosphere and play until the murmur of voices stops.

TEACHER: This is a good way to talk to Jesus at home. Go in your room, shut the door, and visit with your friend, Jesus.

Offering (5-6 minutes)

Captain Victor or the teacher can lead this segment.

Here is a riddle for you.

Some have a little; some have a lot.

It's how much we give, not how much we've got.

It blesses us most when we give it away.

What is the answer? What do you say?

Answer: money.

There is one way that everyone can help God's army. Every army has to have money. This is called funding. You help fund the army of the Lord when you give in the offering.

As the music plays, let's march around the front and bring our offering.

POWER of the Word

Memory Work (8-10 minutes)

"For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds" (II Corinthians 10:4).

Energy Outlet—Pop That Balloon

Take twenty small slips of paper. Write each word of the verse on a separate slip of paper. Insert each slip into a balloon. Distribute the balloons to the children. Each child sits on his balloon and pops it. (They can do this one at a time or all at the same time.) Ask each child to

read the word that was inside his balloon. Attach the words to a board or the wall.

Tell the children to look up II Corinthians 4:10 and use it as a guide to arrange the words to put the memory verse in order.

"For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal." Do we fight the devil with a gun or a missile? No! What do we use to fight the devil and sin? The Word of God, prayer, fasting, and praise. When you memorize a Bible verse, pray a prayer, miss a meal for the Lord, or praise God, POW! You zap the strength right out of the devil. The more you read and memorize God's Word, pray, and fast, the stronger you become and the weaker the devil gets.

"But mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds." These weapons are mighty! No matter how strong a hold the enemy has on someone, prayer and fasting, praise, and God's Word will force Satan to turn lose. Maybe you know someone who is addicted to drugs or alcohol, or shoplifts, or lies. The devil has a strong hold on that person. Prayer Warriors, with God's help we can break Satan's grip.

Raise your hand if you know someone that Satan has a grip on. It's time to call in the Prayer Warriors. Ask the children to stand and give "The Prayer Warrior's Battle Cry."

"The Prayer Warrior's Battle Cry"

(chant)

Prayer Warriors! That's what we wanna be!

Prayer Warriors! We really wanna see

Some action! Prayin' down the walls!

We're listening! For when our leader calls!

Oh yeah! It's hard and heavy work!

Prayer Warriors! Our duty we won't shirk!

Prayer Warriors! Prayer Warriors!

Prayer Warriors.

Spirit Generator (2-3 minutes)

Lead the children in a worship chorus to prepare their hearts for God's Word.

At the end of the song, Private Johnson enters (wearing boots) and takes a seat with the children.

Illustrated Sermon

Judah's Strange Weapons (10-15 minutes)

As Captain Victor delivers the Illustrated Sermon, he incorporates the children into the story. He should practice telling it several times to get a feel for the drama and emotions.

This story is found in II Chronicles 20:1-30. Show in your Bible.

Places a crown on his head, as he becomes King Jehoshaphat. **One day, some people came to me and said, "King Jehoshaphat, the M-M-Moabites and Ammonites are coming to a-a-attack us. W-w-what are we going to d-d-do?"** They were scared.

This was not good news. It made me shake in my boots, too. Trembles. **I started praying, not a little mumbly-mumble prayer. I mean, praying!** Then I called on all the people of Judah to pray and fast, too.

Have the children clasp their hands and pray, "Lord, what shall we do?"

"Oh, Lord, You are the God in heaven, and You rule over all the kingdoms on this earth. In Your hand there is power and might, so that nobody can stand against You. You are our God, who has helped us in the past. You have said that we can come to You when we have a problem. Well, God, we have a big problem. There is a huge army coming, and we cannot defeat them on our own. Please help us!"

Suddenly a man named Jahaziel spoke.

Jahaziel stands and reads. **"Thus saith the Lord: Listen up, people. Don't be afraid because a huge army is coming to attack you. The battle is not yours. It is mine! Tomorrow, when you go down to where the enemy is, you will not have to do anything. I will fight for you!"**

Boy, that was a relief. I fell down and worshiped God. All of the people of Judah worshiped God, too. They shouted, "Hallelujah!" Encourage the children to shout.

The next day, I called all of Judah together. They were ready to fight. But I did not call for soldiers or weapons.

I called for the musicians and singers. "I want you to lead the army, singing. You will be on the front line." Do you think the singers were scared? They were on the front line without a single weapon. When the battle started, they would be the first to be hit. Allow for responses.

Pick a number of children out of the audience. Give them rhythm band instruments, or tell them to pretend to play an instrument.

The army fell in line behind singers. As they marched toward the enemies' camp, they sang, "Praise the Lord; for His mercy endureth for ever!" Have the children march in place. Allow the children with instruments to march around the room, singing, "Praise the Lord; for His mercy endureth forever!"

What a strange army! No weapons, just people praising God. We did not have to fight because we had already defeated the enemy when we fasted and prayed.

Do you know what happened when the people of Judah worshiped God? The Lord sent angels to fight our enemies. The Moabites and Ammonites were defeated, and we did not have to fight one person. We won, not by fighting the enemy, but by praising God!

We returned to Jerusalem shouting and singing, "Praise the Lord; for His mercy endureth forever!" Lead the children in shouting that phrase.

Victor removes the crown.

Invitation and Prayer (10-? minutes)

TEACHER: **That is one awesome story. We win when we praise God. Can you believe that just by worshiping God, Judah won the victory?**

P. J.: **No.**

TEACHER: **No? No what?**

P. J.: **You asked if we could believe that just by worshiping God, Judah won the victory. And I said, "No." I can't believe it.**

TEACHER: **Shocked. Private Johnson, that is not just a story. It is a fact. It really happened.**

Everything in God's Word is true.

P. J.: **But it's too fantastic to believe. I'm a soldier, and I know you don't win battles singing praises. You win battles fighting people.**

TEACHER: **Jehoshaphat and the people of Judah won that battle by singing praises to God, not by fighting people. It's true.**

P. J.: **Well, it's hard for me to believe.**

VICTOR: **Wait just a minute. Looks closely at P. J. I think I know what Private Johnson's problem is.**

P. J.: **But, Captain sir, I don't have a problem.**

VICTOR: **Yes, you do. Anyone who doesn't believe God's Word has a problem . . . a big problem. Teacher, Private Johnson needs an armor check. Would you, please, start reading at Ephesians 6:13?**

As the teacher reads each piece of armor, Victor does a check of P. J.'s armor. He points at the part, nods, and says, "Check."

TEACHER: **Reads. "Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your lions girt about with truth (check), and having on the breastplate of righteousness (check); And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace (check). Above all, taking the shield of faith. . . ."**

VICTOR: **Stop right there. Private Johnson, where is your shield of faith?**

P. J.: **My shield, sir? My shield . . . well, you see, Captain Victor, it's kinda heavy, and I got tired of carrying it, so I left it back there somewhere.**

VICTOR: **So what do you think is going to happen to you when the devil shoots a fiery dart at you?**

P. J.: **Takes a deep breath. I guess I'll get hit, won't I?**

VICTOR: **You will. No wonder you couldn't believe the Bible story, you don't have the shield of faith. Better go get your faith, Private, before you get wounded.**

Private Johnson runs from the room and returns quickly, carrying his shield.

P. J.: **I found it. I thought I had lost my faith, but I found it. Now I'm ready to join the Prayer Warriors.**

Private Johnson and Captain Victor stand to one side as the teacher wraps up the lesson and gives the invitation.

What is faith? The children will give several right definitions.

Faith simply means to believe in something. When we have faith or believe in God, it protects us from Satan's attack. Raise your hand if you believe that Jesus is God. That is using your shield of faith.

Have you been having problems with people – maybe a neighbor or a brother or sister or a friend? You can win the victory just like Judah did, by praising God. You will not win by fighting people. What is the *POWER line*? We win when we praise God. Raise your hand if you believe that. Then praise the Lord and pray for those who are giving you trouble. That's the way to win.

Raise your hand if you believe that Jesus can heal? Look at all of those shields.

Raise your hand if you have faith that Jesus will fill you with the Holy Ghost.

What is the *POWER line*? We win when we praise God!

It is time for the SWAT team to fight some spiritual battles. It is time to praise God. We can have victory in this service. Those who are fussing and fighting with others can have peace. Those who are sick can be healed. Those who need the Holy Ghost can be filled. Hold up your shield of faith by raising your hands to show that you believe God.

Call the children to the front for a time of praise.

The musicians should play lively praise music. The adults lead the children in strong whole-hearted worship. Expect victory!

Military Review

Drill the troops again on maneuvers to get them ready for the military review the next service. Practice chanting "The Prayer Warrior's Battle Cry." It would be good for the children to have

this memorized so they do not need copies.

Children's Prayer Revival

Service 3

Elisha's Blinding Battle Plan

Scripture Text: II Kings 6:8-23

Key Verse: "Greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world" (I John 4:4).

Lesson Objective: When we pray, God's unseen forces fight for us.

POWer Line: God and I make a majority.

Schedule

I. POWer of Worship (40-45 minutes)

A. Welcome (5-7 minutes)

- Pastor's Welcome and Prayer
- Private Johnson's Armor Check

B. Prayer (6-8 minutes)

- A Preemptive Strike
- My Battle Plan

C. Praise Generators (4-6 minutes)

- "God and I Make a Majority"
- "Onward, Christian Soldiers"
- Offering

D. Energy Outlet – Military Review (10-12 minutes)

- Private Johnson Takes His Place in the Troops

E. Testimony Time (4-5 minutes)

- Battle Reports

II. POWer of the Word (25-30 minutes)

A. Memory Work (4-6 minutes)

- I John 4:4

B. Spirit Generator (2-3 minutes)

- “Let God Arise”

C. Illustrated Sermon (10-12 minutes)

- Elisha’s Blinding Battle Plan

D. Invitation and Prayer (5-? minutes)

E. Wrap Up

Supplies

- Nametags
- Whiteboard, markers
- Armor for Captain Victor and Private Johnson
- Copies of the Prayer Battle Plan (one per child)
- Hymnals
- Drum
- Reserved sign
- Map of town
- Pushpins
- “The Prayer Warriors’ Battle Cry” (from previous services)
- Small awards
- Costumes (or simple headgear) for 2 kings, 2 soldiers, Elisha, servant, angels (garland halos)
- 7 copies of skit
- Snack crackers
- Fake tree, butcher paper

Getting Ready

- Write the words to “God and I Make a Majority” on a whiteboard or transparency.
- Choose two or three students who have fought a spiritual battle and won. Work with them to write a battle report. Include lots of military terms. They could start with something like this: "It was about (*time*) when the preliminary attack caught me by surprise." The report should answer questions like: Did you pray at home? At church? Did God send reinforcements? How was the enemy defeated? The students will read these reports to the troops during the testimony time.
- Make a 2' x 2' map of your town, showing the location of the church, school, students' homes, mall, and any other relevant locales.
- Write the *POW*er line on the board.
- Make copies – seven of the script and for each child one of My Prayer Battle Plan.
- Bring hymnals containing the words to “Onward Christian Soldiers.” Or write the words to the first two verses and chorus on a whiteboard or transparency.
- Make prayer signs. (1) Jesus, confuse the enemy; (2) Jesus, divide their divisions; (3) Jesus, make their logistics illogical; (4) Jesus, make their mess hall messy; (5) Jesus, bomb their billets and bridges.
- Arrange a special place for the reviewing stand. Place a “reserved” sign on the seats.
- Make a diagram where skit props and players will stand. Go over the Illustrated Sermon skit with the chosen students.
- Place the fake tree in the room and tape a waterfall (long piece of butcher paper with blue downward slashes) to wall. Make a water effect by holding a piece of colored chalk (blue, purple, and/or green) on its side and swiping it down the paper.

POWER of Worship

Welcome (5-7 minutes)

As the children come in, have helpers stationed at the door to give them nametags. Remember to mark with a star (or other sign) the nametags of the children who do not have the Holy Ghost.

Again, the pastor opens the service with prayer and a few remarks.

Captain Victor and the teacher come to the front.

VICTOR: This is a sharp bunch we have here, Teacher.

TEACHER: They should be, Captain Victor. They've trained hard for the last two services.

VICTOR: I see some things that need to be corrected, but overall they look ready for war!

Attention, Prayer Warriors! Leads the children in "The Prayer Warrior's Battle Cry."

Prayer Warriors! That's what we wanna be!

Prayer Warriors! We really wanna see

Some action! Prayin' down the walls!

We're listening! For when our leader calls!

Oh yeah! It's hard and heavy work!

Prayer Warriors! Our duty we won't shirk!

Prayer Warriors! Prayer Warriors!

Prayer Warriors!

A loud commotion at the back interrupts the service. Enter Private Johnson, marching proudly, calling out commands. He is wearing full armor. The only problem—his helmet is not fastened and he handles his sword carelessly. He marches up to Captain Victor, salutes, and stands at attention, until Victor says, "At ease, Private Johnson."

P. J.: I am reporting for an armor check, Captain sir.

VICTOR: It is not time for an armor check, Private.

P. J.: You mean I can't have an armor check anytime that I want one?

VICTOR: That's what I mean.

P. J.: But I'm all dressed up now, and I might want to get undressed . . . oops! I mean take off some of this armor so I can play around.

VICTOR: **Private Johnson, we are at war with the enemy. This is not the time to take off your armor and play around.**

P. J.: **But I thought . . . I mean I want . . . Oh, I just wish we could have the armor check now.**

VICTOR: **Private, when you are in the army, you go by the army's schedule, not yours. Now, please, take a seat until you are needed.**

Private Johnson sits with the children.

Prayer Time (6-8 minutes)

What is a preemptive strike? Some of the older boys may know. **It is to get in the first blow; to strike before the enemy gets a chance.**

We preemptively strike by praying first. When we do, God confuses the enemy forces. Who is our enemy? Satan. **Always remember that our enemy is a spiritual force. People are not our enemies.**

Call five children to the front and give them the prayer signs to hold so everyone can see them.

Begin by praying along the lines of never surrendering to the enemy, fight, fight, fight! As you point to each sign, the children read it aloud.

Jesus, confuse the enemy;

Jesus, divide their divisions;

Jesus, make their logistics illogical;

Jesus, make their mess hall messy;

Jesus, bomb their billets and bridges.

Lead the children in a shout of triumph.

Every day our enemy tries to rob us of our prayer time. He'll do anything to keep us from praying because he knows how powerful prayer is.

We must have a battle plan to keep the advantage in this war.

In the Christian armor the sword is the Word of God. We can pray God's Word to fight against Satan. When we hit Satan with Bible verses, they knock him out cold. He cannot fight

God's Word.

My Battle Plan

I will preempt Satan. I will strike first.

The first thing in the morning, I will pray God's Word.

Sunday – Psalm 146:8

Monday – Psalm 68:19

Tuesday – Psalm 40:1-4

Wednesday – Psalm 38:21-22

Thursday – Psalm 106:1-5

Friday – Psalm 107:1-3

Saturday – Psalm 109:26-27

Give each child a copy of the Prayer Battle Plan. Pray with them the Scripture for this day.

Teach the children to pray the Word of God. Example:

Lord Jesus, your Word says in Psalm 146:8 that You open the eyes of the blind, You raise them that are bowed down, and You love the righteous. Thank You for Your promises. Help me to be righteous. Send this promise to my family and friends. Your Word is forever settled in heaven. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Praise Generator (4-6 minutes)

VICTOR: Walks among the troops. **Soldier, straighten that shield! Stand up straight! Where's your Bible, private?**

Display the words to "God and I Make a Majority." Underline the *POWER line*. Lead the children in singing this chorus.

God and I make a majority.

I've got power that you can't see.

God is living inside of me.

I can face any enemy,

Cause God and I make a majority.

Repeat the *POWer line* until the children know it.

The teacher hands out the drum and hymnals. (Or displays the words to “Onward, Christian Soldiers” where the children can see them.) Sing the first and second verses in a strong, stately manner, as the drum keeps time.

A soldier's helmet can be used for many things – protection against mortar fire, as a bowl to eat out of, for a cup, or to take an offering.

Use the helmet to take the offering while the drum beats.

Energy Outlet—Military Review (10-12 minutes)

It is time for a military review. This is the moment we have been working toward. We will march before the dignitaries and high-ranking officials of our church. Let’s show ‘em our stuff, troops!

Private Johnson dashes to the front. His helmet strap is flapping, and he is waving his sword wildly. Captain Victor watches him sternly.

P. J.: I want to lead. Let me in the front, Captain. I am learning the maneuvers in boot camp. I know how . . . Is something wrong?

VICTOR: Yes. You.

P. J.: Looks at himself. I’ve got all my armor on . . . I think. I asked for an armor check, and you wouldn’t give me one.

VICTOR: Sighs. Okay. We’re scheduled to have a military review in a few minutes, and I can’t have you messing up the parade.

P. J.: But, Captain sir, I wouldn’t do that.

VICTOR: Oh, no? Teacher, will you read Ephesians 6:13-17 for us, please? We are going to give Private Johnson an armor check.

As the teacher reads, Private Johnson points at each piece of his armor and calls out, “Check.”

TEACHER: **“Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.**

Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth (check), and having on the breastplate of righteousness (check);

And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace (check);

Above all, taking the shield of faith (check), wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

And take the helmet of salvation (check), and the sword of the Spirit (check), which is the word of God.”

P. J.: Sighs heavily. **What a relief. I finally put on the “whole armour of God.” Boy, am I gonna beat up that old devil.**

VICTOR: **There is more to it than putting the armor on. You have to put it on right.**

P. J.: **Yeah, right.**

Captain Victor glares at Private Johnson.

P. J.: **Salutes. I mean, yes sir, Captain.**

VICTOR: **Your helmet is not fastened. It could easily fly off your head in battle. A wound to the head can be fatal.**

The helmet of salvation must be fastened securely. You must know that you have repented, been baptized in Jesus’ name, and received the Holy Ghost. No guessing . . . maybe the preacher baptized me right, maybe I spoke in tongues. That will not do! You must know.

Fasten your helmet, Private!

Private Johnson obeys.

And what in the world are you thinking . . . or not thinking . . . to sling that sword around alike that? Your sword is sharp and dangerous. You have to treat it with respect.

Private Johnson regards the sword with awe.

The Word of God is our sword. God's Word is powerful and sharp. It can cut people into pieces, if it is used wrongly. You must handle God's Word respectfully. Do not use it to cut people down. We are fighting against the devil, not people. Use your sword to defeat the devil.

P. J.: Salutes. **Yes sir, Captain. Am I ready now to lead the troops?**

VICTOR: **No. It will be a long time Private Johnson before you are the leader of the troops. But you are ready to join God's Special Forces and be a Prayer Warrior. You may take your place at the back of the line.**

P. J.: Salutes again. **Yes, sir Captain. At your command. I'm proud to be part of God's Special Forces, even if I am at the back of the line.** Takes his place in the troops.

Send the trained soldiers to escort the dignitaries to the reviewing stand.

As the troops march, they say the *POW*er line in cadence. **God and I make a majority.**

When the troops reach the reviewing stand, they stand at attention and chant, "The Prayer Warrior's Battle Cry." (Provide copies, if they are needed.)

The pastor (or head of the committee) then gives a short speech about the children's potential as Prayer Warriors and how their prayers can reap results for the whole army of God.

The teacher dismisses the troops to return to the church/their seats.

Testimony Time (4-5 minutes)

It is time to hear some battle reports. It always makes us feel better about our battle, if we know that someone else has fought and won that same battle.

Call for the pre-chosen children to read their reports. They use pushpins to show on the local map points they were at during this critical offense.

After the reports, Victor calls the battalion to attention. **Attention! What facts can we glean from (child's name) report?** The children wait to answer until chosen by their commander.

Repeat the *POW*er line. **God and I are a majority.**

POWER of the Word

Memory Work (4-6 minutes)

Turn in your Bibles to I John 4:4. Break up the verse:

(Tune: "Greater Is He That Is in Me")

Ye are of God, little children.

Ye are of God, little children.

Ye are of God, little children,

And have overcome the world.

Because greater is He that is in me,

Greater is He that is in me,

Greater is He that is in me,

Than he that is in the world.

Boys and girls alternate singing the stanzas. Give a small prize to each child who learns the memory verse.

Spirit Generator (2-3 minutes)

"Let God Arise"

Illustrated Sermon

Elisha's Blinding Battle Plan

After the principal players don their costumes, place Elisha and servant in the middle of the room and surround them with angels.

Divide the remaining students – two-thirds angels and one-third soldiers.

Divide the soldiers into two groups – the Syrians and the Israelites.

Place the kings and their soldiers on opposite sides of the room.

If your group is large, choose eight or ten children to be the soldiers and twice that many to be angels.

Give instructions to the troops and angels, as they will not have scripts.

Victor reads II Kings 6:8.

KING OF SYRIA: Seeing as I am the King of Syria, I have decided we will go to war against Israel. Should we attack them by the waterfall or down in the valley?

SOLDIER 1: By the waterfall. That way I can push them over!

SOLDIER 2: Heh! Heh! They'll fall and not get up!

KING OF SYRIA: Here's what we'll do. Let's sneak down through the forest (*tree*) and hide on the other side of the waterfall so the Israelites can't hear us coming. We'll make camp, and when they come by, we'll whack 'em.

All laugh madly as they follow the plan.

VICTOR: As soon as their evil plans were made, Elisha, the man of God, knew them.

Elisha points out the evil trio to his servant; then he points to the king of Israel. Servant runs to the king of Israel.

SERVANT: Elisha says the king of Syria is waiting for you by the waterfall. Don't go that way, or you'll be defeated.

KING OF ISRAEL: Thank the prophet for me. We'll go the other way.

The servant goes back to Elisha. The king of Israel and his soldiers move away from the waterfall.

KING OF SYRIA: We've been waiting for three days. Those sly Jews must have gone the other way. Tell you what, let's go wait in the valley. We'll catch them there and (makes a slashing move).

The trio moves to another area of the room, where they crouch in hiding.

Elisha sends his servant back to the king of Israel.

SERVANT: Sir, the king of Syria will chop off your heads, if you go through the valley.

KING OF ISRAEL: Since I'm rather attached to my head, my army will camp by the waterfall tonight.

The king of Israel moves his troops to the waterfall. Elisha and his servant pretend to sleep.

VICTOR: **These events gave the king of Syria indigestion.**

KING OF SYRIA: **I need some TUMS.** Holds hand over heart. **It hurts! I want to know who the spy is. Have you turned on me?**

SOLDIER 1: **Oh no, my king! Ask him.** Points to soldier 2.

SOLDIER 2: **Your majesty, it's not our fault. It's that prophet Elisha. He's the tattletale. He even knows what you say in your bedroom, and he shares it with the king of Israel.**

KING OF SYRIA: **Go find him and come tell me where he is.**

The soldiers creep toward Elisha, go back to king and point at Elisha.

KING OF SYRIA: **Deploy two battalions of your most trusted men (shouts) to bring me that prophet.**

The Syrian soldiers surround the sleeping Elisha and his servant, who are already surrounded by angels. The servant wakes up.

SERVANT: Shakes Elisha. **Master! Master, wake up! We're surrounded by heathens. They're coming to take us prisoners-of-war. Oh no! What are we going to do?**

ELISHA: **Don't be scared. Greater are they that are with us than they that are against us.** Lays his hand on servant's eyes. **Jehovah, open my servant's eyes that he may see.**

VICTOR: **So the servant was able to see God's Special Angel Force all around them. Angels everywhere! But the Syrian army could not see the angels. They came closer and closer to the prophet and his servant.**

Then Elisha's blinding battle plan went into action. Watch closely.

ELISHA: Prays. **Blind these men, Lord.**

The angels raise their fists toward the Syrians, who close their eyes and begin stumbling.

Elisha and his servant move over to the Syrian soldiers.

ELISHA: **Attention!**

The Syrian soldiers snap to attention.

ELISHA: **Follow me. I will take you to the man you are looking for. Forward! March!**

VICTOR: What a sight that must have been. The blind Syrian soldiers followed the man they had come to capture. God and Elisha captured the whole Syrian army.

Elisha and his servant join hands with the “blind” Syrians, forming a chain. They lead them to the king of Israel.

ELISHA: Prays. Lord, open the eyes of these men that they may see.

VICTOR: Suddenly, the Syrian soldiers could see. They looked around. Where were they? Right in the middle of the enemies’ camp.

KING OF ISRAEL: Ah-ha! What a strategy! Who but the God of Israel could blind an entire army and deliver them into the hands of one man? To Elisha. Amazing! Rubs his hands in anticipation. Shall I kill them? Shall I kill ‘em? Shall I?

ELISHA: No! No! No! Give them something to eat and drink, and send them home.

The king of Israel gives the Syrian soldiers snack crackers and sends them back to their seats. What a story! God and one man, Elisha, were a majority.

Invitation and Prayer (5-? minutes)

When we pray, unseen forces fight for us. As humans, we aren't often allowed to see them, like Elisha and his servant did. But angels are all around us, whether we see them or not. Our natural eyes are blind to God's Spirit moving around us. The bad thing is that we can be spiritually blind, too.

Prayer opens our spiritual eyes so we can see the things of God. Prayer joins us with God to make a majority. Prayer is the only way we can defeat the enemy.

Ask a musician to play a consecration chorus softly.

Right now I want you to close your eyes and use your spiritual eyes to look deep into your heart. Please, bow your head and close your eyes. Wait until everyone obeys.

As I ask these questions, answer them in your mind. Do not answer aloud.

Are you fighting a battle?

Are you are fighting temptation? Do you want to do something you know you shouldn't?

Do you have a problem with selfishness? Maybe you can't get along with others because

you always have to have your way?

Are you jealous of those who seem to get more attention than you do?

Are you filled with anger and bitterness because of family problems?

Are you the only one in your family or class who lives for God? Maybe you are discouraged and feel outnumbered. Remember: God and I make a majority.

Are you afraid to come to the front and receive the Holy Ghost? Maybe you are afraid to be baptized. God wants to give you victory over fear.

Whatever you need to pray about, come to the front. Let's talk to God. He will send His Spirit to give you power to overcome the enemy. As the children come to the front, have them repeat, "God and I are a majority. God and I are a majority."

Encourage the parents and adults who are present to pray with the children.

Wrap Up

If you have not started the Prayer Buddies project (see under the Introduction "Getting Parents Involved in CPR), consider doing so now.

The ideal is to have one adult take one child. If this is not possible, adults can take two or three children as Prayer Buddies. Ask for a commitment from the children, as well as the adults.

The children need to be givers as well as receivers.

- Pray for your buddy each day.
- Call him/her occasionally.
- Write a note and hand or mail it to your buddy.
- Keep in touch with your buddy and God, in your buddy's behalf.