

Children's Prayer Revival—2006

I'm in the Lord's Army

Service 2—White Phase of Basic Prayer Training

Aim: To learn that we are fighting a spiritual battle.

Scripture Text: II Corinthians 10:3-5

Key Verse: “Be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might” (Ephesians 6:10).

POWER line: I'm in the Lord's Army. Yes, sir!

Supplies

- national flag and Christian flag
- large metal pot set upside down on a metal cake pan
- OJT jar and prayer slips
- obstacle course items (See Energy Outlet for suggestions.)
- prizes for obstacle course activity
- camera
- water or juice
- masking tape or sidewalk chalk
- posterboard or banners with cadence call
- songs on posterboard or flip chart
- “instruments” to use for Spirit Generator
- copy of Buddy Bubba's skit
- Buddy Bubba's uniform: strainer, garbage can lid, and broom
- camouflage uniforms

Getting Ready

- Ask an adult quartet or trio to sing “Onward Christian Soldiers.” If you have a trumpeter, that is even better. Run copies of the verses for the students.
- Ask someone dressed in military uniform to relate the information about Sydney Radley-Walters. Additional information about the German tiger tank can be found at *tiger-tank.com*.
- Set up an obstacle course, outdoors if possible.
- Make a copy of the skit for Buddy Bubba.
- Write the words to the songs for this service on posterboard or flip chart.

***POWER* of Worship**

Welcome (8-10 minutes)

Salute children. Remind them of the *POWER* line: **I’m in the Lord’s Army.**

We are in the Lord’s Army. That means we have to fight in a war—not a war with guns and bombs, but a spiritual war. We need to know how our enemy fights. Who is our enemy? Let children respond. **How do we fight him?** With prayer and the Word of God.

Sydney Radley-Walters

In World War II, the Allied Forces made a surprise attack on the coast of Normandy France. Many armies came together to liberate Europe from Hitler’s army.

One of Germany’s main weapons was the “Tiger” tank. It weighed fifty-six tons, more than twice the size of the Sherman, which was the main tank of the

Allies. Although it seemed indestructible at first, some Canadian tank men came up with a plan to knock it out of commission.

Sydney Radley-Walters, a twenty-four-year-old Canadian who commanded a squadron of fifteen Sherman tanks, gave this description:

“If you hit it on this big heavy gun mount . . . it just bounces off. But . . . the armour on the driver and on . . . the co-driver’s [side] . . . see how thin it is in here. Now if you can . . . hit on the lower side of this gun mount, . . . which gives you a target of about four or five feet wide. . . . The round cannot bounce off, it must bounce down. And when it bounces down, what does it do? It smashes this weak armour . . . here over the driver and the co-driver and in most cases, we found out that . . . the tank is automatically knocked out. . . . if you can’t get your first one, [if you can get] your second round in from here down to the bottom, . . . you could destroy a tank, with a 75 mm., at up to eight, nine hundred yards head on. . . .”

(www.valourandhorror.com/DB/PERSON/Walters_GM_Tanks.php; accessed July 7, 2006).

According to *valourandhorror.com*, the area described is about six inches in diameter. The method has been called a “one-in-a-million” shot. Radley-Walters knocked out nineteen German tanks, the best record of any Canadian. He won the Distinguished Service Order and the Military Cross for taking out the German tanks, and he later became a Brigadier General in the Canadian army.

Why is it important to know about your enemies' weapons? Let students respond. **What are some of the weapons of our enemy? What are our weapons?**

Today we begin the White Phase II of Basic Prayer Training. Let's start with our battle cry.

Energy Outlet: Cadence Call

Children yell out the cadence as posted on the posterboard or computer banners.

V.I.C.T.O.R.Y.—That's the Christian's battle cry!

S.O.L.D.I.E.R.—That's what the Bible says we are!

F.R.E.E.D.O.M.—Jesus died so we would win!

A.C.T.S 2:38.—This is one that is so great!

Sound off! (Sound off!) **A.C.T.S.** (big breath) **2:38!**

Well done, soldiers! Salute children to elicit *POWER* line. **I'm in the Lord's Army. Yes, sir!**

Skit: Brother Buddy Bubba Is Dangerous

Teacher: **Remember our verse from last week? "Be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might"?**

(Buddy Bubba comes racing in with his broom and starts whacking at invisible mice on the floor, disrupting the lesson.)

Teacher: **Stop! Buddy Bubba, what are you doing?**

Buddy Bubba: **I'm being strong in the Lord. I just got baptized in Jesus' name and received the Holy Ghost. Pastor said I would receive power. I'm ready to start using it.** (whacks at more mice)

Teacher: **Buddy Bubba, you have received spiritual power, not broom power!**

Buddy Bubba (disappointed): **I'm not going to become big and powerful and handsome?**

Teacher: **Handsome? No, you don't understand. God gives you His strength. When the Holy Ghost lives inside you, God gives you the ability to do more for Him. The more you study the Bible and pray, the stronger spiritually you will become. I don't know if you are ever going to become handsome.**

Buddy Bubba: **Where is the lion I have to fight?** (looks under the tables, in the closets, ready to whack it with his broom)

Teacher: **The lion? Oh, the devil as a roaring lion?**

Buddy Bubba: **That's the one.**

Teacher: **That's a way of saying that the devil will try to trick you into running away from the Lord's Army. If a real lion ever gets you outside of the camp, you will be**

all alone and he can eat you. But if you stay in the Lord's Army, in His camp (the church), you'll be safe from sneaky, tricky lions.

Buddy Bubba: **Oooooohhhh. So I don't have to fight with my broom?**

Teacher: **Nope. Leave the broom and go get your Bible. That's a real weapon in spiritual warfare.**

Truth Conductor: Pledge of Allegiance

Lead children in the Lord's Army pledge of allegiance.

We pledge to support and defend souls against the enemy using prayer and the Word of God as our weapons of warfare. We bear true faith and allegiance to one God and obey His orders.

Praise Generators (4-6 minutes)

Sing worship songs as children march: "I'm in The Lord's Army," "Victory Is Mine," and "There Is Power in the Blood." Remind students to do an about-face when the DS yells, "Repent!"

Prayer (4-6 minutes)

Truth Conductor—OJT

Let each child reach into the OJT jar and get a prayer line. (Another option is to let the students write their own suggestions and add them to the jar.) **This is on-the-job training. We are learning how to pray by using these suggestions.**

Before you start the cooperative prayer, with each child reading a line and then adding a statement of his own, say this rhyme:

When you pray, day by day, here are some things that you can say:

Dear God, . . .

Let each child say the line on his prayer slip then add a comment of his own. (See the instructions for Service 1 for further explanation.)

Well done, soldiers! Salute students to elicit *POWer* line. **I'm in the Lord's Army. Yes, sir!**

Offering (3-5 minutes)

Target Practice—Joyful Noise Offering

Place a large metal pot on an upside-down metal cake pan in the center of the room. Kids make as much noise as possible throwing change into the pot to make a joyful noise unto the Lord in their offering to Him. **Don't forget your change next time. Let's make the biggest joyful noise unto the Lord that's ever been made!**

Energy Outlet: Obstacle Course Game

A soldier in the army must run through obstacle courses designed to test his ability to run around, crawl under, jump over, and climb. He is timed in his efforts and must complete the course before he can pass Basic Training.

In the Lord's Army sometimes we face obstacles or things that we have to get over or deal with. The obstacles we face may be feelings, problems, hard times, or sad times. What are some problems we might have to face? Let children respond.

With prayer and the Word of God, our weapons of spiritual warfare, we can overcome any obstacle in our way.

Go outside, if possible, or somewhere with plenty of room and set up an obstacle course. Allow plenty of time for kids to race each other and earn prizes. Take lots of pictures to share with parents.

Explain the spiritual parallel of each obstacle.

- Angry thoughts: Hula hoops taped together in rings to jump over
- Prejudice: Limbo sticks to shimmy under
- Hard work: Jump ropes to jump
- Health problems: Eggs to carry on a spoon
- Transportation problems: Potato or trash sacks to jump in
- Long waiting: Tunnels—refrigerator boxes on their sides
- Bullies: Targets (large bulls-eyes) to shoot at with pop-cap or water guns
- Fox holes of prayer: spots where students can dig

After students have run the obstacle course, offer water or juice for refreshment.

Well done, soldiers! Salute children for *POWER* line. **I'm in the Lord's Army. Yes, sir!**

***POWER* of the Word**

Energy Outlet—Daily Calisthenics

Bible Memorization (8-10 minutes)

“Be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might” (Ephesians 6:10).

Ask the children to do twelve toe touches while they rehearse the verse under the direction of a DS (drill sergeant).

Spirit Generator (2-3 minutes)

Sing “Onward Christian Soldiers.” Ask an adult quartet or trio to come in and sing the song with flair and a fast tempo. If you have a trumpeter, ask him to play the song. Display the words so students can follow along. Ask the children to join in the song, marching around the room with their own fun instruments like drums and bells to shake it up. (Use beans in coffee cans—be creative!)

Sermon (10-12 minutes)

The White Phase of a new army recruit’s Basic Training lasts for Weeks IV–VI. This is known as the “Gunfighter Phase.”

Week IV takes the recruits to the firing ranges where they learn to handle the M16A2 rifle, shooting at a variety of moving, pop-up, and long-range targets.

Week V increases the demands of marksmanship, and everyone practices automatic fire and night firing. Soldiers have to hit at least seventeen out of forty targets to pass as a “Marksman,” but a strike rate of more than twenty-four will earn a “Sharpshooter” badge.

You would be surprised at how many different ranges one Army post has. Everyone must run the obstacle course carrying his new friend, the M16A2 rifle. With live machine gun fire spraying over their heads, soldiers, wearing heavy backpacks, learn to climb walls and crawl through barbed wire.

If you look at II Corinthians 10:3-5, you can see the White Phase of learning to be a great prayer warrior.

“For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (for the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ” (II Corinthians 10:3-5).

We are learning about the targets—things to shoot down—in the devil’s battlefield, just as Major Sydney Radley-Walters learned the vulnerable part of the German Tiger tanks. These are things to remember:

- 1. Physical strength will not help us.**
- 2. Our weapons through God are mighty—the ammunition of prayer.**
- 3. Evil imaginations and people who think they are smarter than God are dangerous.**
- 4. Thoughts can be powerful. When we give them to God, He makes them powerful tools of prayer to help instead of powerful landmines to destroy us.**

U.S. Army recruits are taught the principles of camouflage, concealment, and decoy (CCD) to increase their survivability on the battlefield. Soldiers dig their own foxholes. If possible, they should dig a hole that is shoulder-deep when standing up. In the Lord’s Army, we don’t dig foxholes; we dig prayer holes in our busy schedules. The bigger and deeper the hole, the more we are protected from the fiery darts of the enemy.

Invitation and Prayer (5-? minutes)

Pick a Battle Buddy for the Lord’s Army and gather around the altar to ask God to help us become prayer warriors.

First, we're going to praise God. Then, on my signal, ask for forgiveness and repent of your sins. Then when your heart is clean, lift your faces and arms high and ask the Lord for the Holy Ghost. If you already have the Holy Ghost, pray with someone near you to receive the Holy Ghost.

Review

Use the Prayer Clock from Service 1. Explain each division again. Show children how they can pray in five-minute segments.