

Children's Prayer Revival—2006

I'm in the Lord's Army

Service 3—Blue Phase of Basic Prayer Training

Aim: To learn to use the whole armor of God.

Scripture Text: Ephesians 6:10-17

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

- boots, vest, shield (garbage can lid), tool belt, helmet or hat, sword (toy sword or rolled up newspaper)
- large metal pot set upside down on a metal cake pan
- OJT jar
- masking tape or sidewalk chalk
- posterboard or banners of cadence call
- copy of Buddy Bubba's script
- candy for the Bible memorization
- Christian armor flashcards
- pushpins or tape

Getting Ready

- Make a copy of the skit for Buddy Bubba.
- Write the words to the songs for this service on posterboard or a flip chart.
- Write the Bible verse on the board.

- Make flashcards that list each piece of a Christian's armor: truth, righteousness, gospel, faith, salvation, Word of God.

***POWER* of Worship**

Welcome (8-10 minutes)

Salute children. Remind them of the *POWER* line. **I'm in the Lord's Army. Yes, sir!** Repeat 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.

This is our final phase of Basic Prayer Training! If you graduate, you can go on to Spiritual Occupational Specialty Training, working with soldiers in the Lord's Army in your area of interest. Will you choose teaching, music, pastoring, Bible studies, children's ministry, church finances, or outreach? It may be too soon to know, or you may have a pretty good idea what kind of job you would do well in our church.

Skit: Buddy Bubba Puts on the Armor of God

Buddy Bubba shows up for class with a trashcan lid as a shield, a silver colander on his head, and a broom, singing an off-key version of "I'm in the Lord's Army."

Teacher: **Well, Buddy. You've repented, you've received the Holy Ghost, and last week you got baptized in Jesus' name. You are truly in the Lord's Army. So why are you still wearing your strainer in your head?**

Buddy Bubba: **It's my helmet of salvation. This is my shield of faith** (blocks a few imaginary arrows), **and this is my sword of the Spirit** (holds his broom like a rifle).

Teacher: **You are the most interesting soldier that I have ever seen.**

Buddy Bubba: **Thank you.**

Teacher: **But where is your breastplate of righteousness to protect your heart? Are your feet covered with the preparation of the gospel of peace? Why don't you have on the girdle of truth?**

Buddy Bubba: **Oh, (giggle) I can't wear a girdle.**

Teacher: **You don't understand. I'm talking about a big leather belt, like a tool belt. It protects your sides and hips.**

Buddy Bubba: **Oooohhhh. Why do I need to protect my feet?**

Teacher: **Ssssnakes.**

Buddy Bubba: (starts to dance) **Oh, no! I really do need the *whole* armor of God.**

Teacher: **Yes, Jesus has provided a very special armor to protect you as you fight against the enemy, Satan. Jesus paid for it on Calvary.**

Buddy Bubba: **I'm in the Lord's Army. Yes, sir! I mean, ma'am** (to one of the ladies or girls). **I've got to go get myself squared away!**

Cadence Call

Let's do some marching and cadence. Students yell out the letters on the posterboard or computer banners posted around the room.

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

Praise Generators (4-6 minutes)

Try this echo praise. The teacher starts out and the students echo and imitate actions.

I am a Christian (I am a Christian) *point to self*

A mighty, mighty Christian (A mighty, mighty Christian) *flex arms and show muscles*

I am a Christian (I am a Christian)

A mighty, mighty Christian (A mighty, mighty Christian)

Got my shield of faith (Got my shield of faith) *swing arm in front of you, like holding a shield*

Breastplate of righteousness (Breastplate of righteousness) *use fingers to outline a breastplate on chest*

Sword of the Spirit (Sword of the Spirit) *use your arm like a sword and pull it out from other hand*

My legs are covered by truth (my legs are covered by truth) *place fists on each hip, one by one*

Helmet of salvation (Helmet of salvation) *wave hands over your head*

Got my gospel shoes on (gospel shoes on) *kick feet out in front of you and point to toes*

And above all (and above all) *starting at feet, make bubbling motion all the way up above your head*

And above all (and above all)

I said above all (I said above all)

I'm dressed in the whole armor of God! (I'm dressed in the whole armor of God!)

(Together) **We're dressed in the whole armor of God!**

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

Army. Yes, sir!

Prayer (4-6 minutes)

Truth Conductor—OJT

Ask each child to reach into the OJT jar and get a prayer line. Before you start the cooperative prayer, with each child reading a line and then adding a statement, say this rhyme:

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

Dear God,

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. **Let's make a gigantic joyful noise unto the Lord.** Let children throw their offering into the pan.

Praise Exercises

Play The Bible Says game. This is a variation of Simon Says, but the instructions must be biblical commands or exhortations. Example: The Bible says make a joyful noise. The Bible says clap your hands all ye people. Touch your toes. (Nope.) The Bible says shout with a voice of triumph!

POWer of the Word

Energy Outlet—Daily Calisthenics (8-10 minutes)

Bible Memorization

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

Ask for volunteers. Anyone who says the verse gets a piece of candy. Visitors will quickly memorize the verse by listening to others recite it.

Children do knee to elbow touches or arm circles while repeating the verse under the direction of a DS (drill sergeant).

Well done, soldiers! Salute children for *POWer* line: **I'm in the Lord's Army!**

Yes, sir!

Sermon (10-12 minutes)

Pile the “armor” you brought to class nearby and ask a volunteer to come to the front to be suited up. As each piece of armor is mentioned, put it on the volunteer. Pass out the flashcards.

This is the Blue Phase of Basic Prayer Training. Let’s start by looking at our DOs, or daily orders. These orders come from the Book of Ephesians. Read dramatically and powerfully.

“Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

“For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

“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 loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness.

“And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

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

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

Those are our orders.

When we are soldiers in the Lord's Army, we fight spiritual battles. We do not fight people or other churches. Who is our enemy? What does he want to do to us?

If you have ever seen the devil raise your hand. Hopefully no one has ever seen the devil. **So how do we fight against someone we cannot see? Certainly not with our fists and guns.**

This is a spiritual battle. Our enemy and our weapons are invisible. But it is a real fight.

The battle that we read about in the Book of Ephesians compares our weapons to a soldier's armor in Bible days.

Place the tool belt on your volunteer. **A wide, thick belt (sometimes called a girdle) circled the soldier's waist and rested on his hips. It protected that tender area between the ribs and the hips.**

The belt the Christian soldier wears is truth. Ask the child with the truth flashcard to bring it to the front and stick it on the wall (use pushpins or tape). **Always obey the truth in God's Word. Always tell the truth. Lies, dishonesty, and cheating hurt. Truth protects us.**

Place the vest on the volunteer. **The breastplate protected the soldier's heart and lungs from the enemy's arrows and swords. What do policemen wear to protect their hearts and lungs? Bulletproof vests.**

Call for the righteousness flashcard to be posted. **Righteousness is simply doing what is right. It is having your heart (your feelings) right with God.**

Ask the volunteer to put on the boots. **It is important for a soldier to have the right footwear. Soldiers have to wear good shoes so they can march for miles and miles. To fall in battle might mean death.** Call for the gospel flashcard.

Our spiritual shoes keep us prepared to take the gospel to others. What is the gospel? It is the good news that Jesus died, was buried, and rose again to save us from sin.

Our spiritual shoes allow us to stand for what is right. They keep us from falling into sin and being wounded by the devil.

Give the volunteer the garbage can lid to hold. **The shield can be moved around to catch the darts and arrows the soldiers threw at one another. It also warded off blows of swords and spears.** Call for the faith flashcard.

Faith protects us from the fiery darts the enemy throws at us. Whatever happens, we can have faith that God will take care of us. Even in bad times, we are okay because we know that God is in control. No matter what happens to you, trust God. He will take care of you.

Place the helmet on the volunteer. The soldier's helmet protects his brain. Call for the salvation flashcard. **Salvation protects our minds. What is the plan of salvation?** Ask students to quote Acts 2:38. **Knowing that you have obeyed the plan of salvation protects your mind from doubt and fear.**

Give the volunteer the sword. **The sword was the only weapon the soldier had to fight the enemy. All the rest of the armor was for his protection.** Call for the Word of God flashcard. **The Word of God is all we need to defeat the devil. When he tries**

to get us to sin, we can quote the Word of God. It is important to memorize God's Word. You never know when you will need to use the sword against the devil.

Invitation and Prayer (5-? minutes)

The Lord has provided all the protection and weapons we need to fight a spiritual battle. We are fully equipped to win.

Are you in the Lord's Army?

Have you repented and been baptized in Jesus' name? Have you received the Holy Ghost? Do you have the whole armor of God—truth, righteousness, the gospel, faith, salvation, and the Word of God? Are you wearing it every day?

If you want to be in the Lord's Army, gather around the altar. We're going to praise God; then, on my signal, ask for forgiveness and repent of your sins. When your heart is clean, lift your face and arms high and ask God for the Holy Ghost. If you already have the Holy Ghost, ask the Lord for a refreshing or pray with someone near you.

Review

Let students try on the "armor" and name each piece.

Use the Prayer Clock described in Service 1. Go over each section again. Call out different prayer situations. See if children can determine which prayer section the situation falls under (e.g., I stole a cookie—forgiveness. I am so thankful for my family—thanksgiving).