

**IMPACT
KIDS**

**LIVE
IT OUT**

Impact Kids Spring 2026 Older Kids Leader Guide

April 1, 2026

next steps
IN DISCIPLESHIP

Armor of God- Put on all the armor God gives you so you can stand strong when things get tough. With God's help, you can stay strong and do what's right no matter what happens. Eph 6:13

Bible- Apr 1- Matthew 23 We fight evil with righteousness.

Memory Verse: Ephesians 6:13



At a Glance



The Code



Gospel Page



**Armor of God-
Leader Devos**

Memory Verse Mania

We'll focus on one key Bible verse connected to what we're learning in Impact Kids. Kids will have a chance to memorize it, live, and share it.

Memory Verses:

Psalm 119:105, 1 Corinthians 12:4-5,

John 15:5, Ephesians 6:13

Bonus: Eph 6:10, Psalm 23:1, Matt 6:9-13, Psalm 100:2, Favorite Verse and extra bonus

Wednesday Group Schedule

Leaders Arrive: 6:15 PM

Family Dinner: 6:30 PM – 6:50 PM

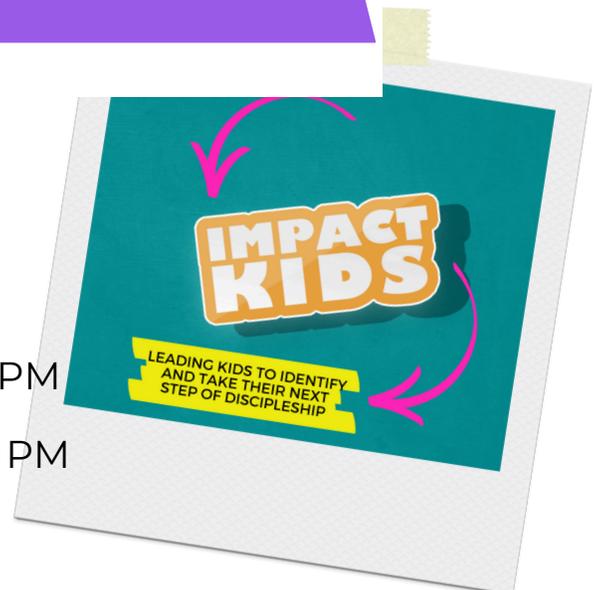
K-3rd Outside Play: 6:50 PM- 7:20 PM

4th & 5th Small Group: 6:50 PM- 7:30 PM

K-3rd Small Group: 7:25 PM- 8:00 PM

4th & 5th Outside Play: 7:30 PM- 8:00 PM

Dismiss: 8:00 PM- 8:05 PM



Opening Game:

Supplies:

- Bible
- “Knight” handout, printed on 11x17 paper (1 copy) (this will be used for the next 6 weeks)- Hang in the wall
- aluminum foil- 1 roll per group- will be used for 6 weeks
- scissors
- glue sticks

Welcome

- Thank kids for coming.
- Introduce new kids.

Introduce the Lesson

Say: We’re learning about the armor of God. In battles, soldiers wear armor to protect themselves. We’re not in a war against people, but the Bible says we’re in a war against unseen powers of evil! But don’t worry; we’re on the winning side—God’s side! And we have his special armor to put on, including the body armor of righteousness. Body armor goes on like a shirt to protect your heart and organs.

- Have kids cut pieces of aluminum foil to fit on the knight’s torso.
- Kids can glue their body armor to the knight, one piece on top of another, so you end up with a thick layer of foil that makes substantial body armor.
- You’ll continue to add to the knight handout for several weeks, so leave it up.

Share

- Tell kids about a movie that looked like it would be really good but was disappointing when you saw it.
- Have kids form pairs. Ask kids to share about movies they thought looked really good but were disappointed by.
- After partners have shared, ask two or three kids to share with the whole group.

Summarize

Open a Bible to Ephesians 6 and say: In today’s Bible story, we’ll find out about people who looked really good, but on the inside, it turned out their hearts were more focused on themselves than on God. Let’s see what happened in the Bible, God’s special book. The Bible is one way God shows us his righteousness. And guess what! God is here right now, ready to talk to you! Let’s talk with God now.

Pray, thanking God for his victory over evil with righteousness.

Talk About Video:

Discuss and Watch “Andy’s Armor”

Say: We’re learning that we fight evil with the righteousness.

Ask: • What does that mean to you?

Say: If you’re not quite sure what it means to fight evil with righteousness, you’re not alone. Let’s join our friend Andy to see what he thinks it means.

Watch “Andy’s Armor.”

Ask: • What would you like—or not like—about wearing actual body armor around all the time?
• Genesis said putting on the body armor of righteousness means “covering our hearts in God’s goodness.” How do we do that?

Say: Luckily we don’t have to wear heavy armor around like Andy tried to do. We fight evil with righteousness when we ask God to shine his goodness through our hearts.

Deeper Bible:

Supplies

- Bibles
- paper- 1 sheet per kid
- pens

Set It Up

Say: We’re learning that we fight evil with righteousness. In the Bible story, Jesus saw that the Pharisees looked righteous on the outside, but their hearts were bad. They didn’t have God’s body armor of righteousness protecting their hearts.

So what do we do when we think someone has a bad heart? How do we know that someone’s heart is bad? Is it our job to make someone else righteous? Let’s dig in to that by playing a game where we can see only the outside of something.

Play a Game

Give each child a piece of paper and a pen. **Say:** First, secretly write the name of a food that starts with the first letter of your name. Then fold the paper so no one can see what you wrote. Allow time for kids to write and then fold their papers. Have kids sit in a circle and set their folded papers in front of them. Give each child a second piece of paper. **Say:** Now look around at everyone’s papers from just the outside. Make a list of people’s names and the foods you think they wrote. If you don’t know someone’s name, just ask! You’ll have two minutes. The person with the most correct answers wins! Allow two minutes, and then have kids reveal what they wrote so kids can tally their scores.

Ask: • How many did you get right?

• Did you write your own name and food on your list? Why or why not?

Say: I never told you that you could guess and write only other people’s answers. But some of you might not have thought to write down your own answers on your lists! That reminds me of the way we sometimes focus on righteousness. Sometimes we’re so focused on everyone else that we forget the most important thing: seeing how God wants to make our own hearts more righteous. Jesus talked about that.

Dig Deeper

Read Matthew 7:3-5.

Ask: • What's wrong with focusing on someone else's faults when you're not really right with God?

Say: These verses show us the importance of working on our own relationship with God first. We can't help others do what's right when we're not tuning in to God's righteousness ourselves!

But sometimes there is a benefit to helping our friends grow in their righteousness. Let's look at a verse that talks about that.

Read Galatians 6:1-2.

Say: Let's explore these verses further. Have kids form three groups. The Ones will read the verses again, paying attention to who we're supposed to help. The Twos will read the verses again, paying attention to who is supposed to do the helping. And the Threes will read the verses again, looking for words that describe how we can help.

Allow time for groups to read the verses and discuss what they can find out about their topics.

Then have kids form trios with a One, a Two, and a Three in each trio. Ask kids to share with their trios what they learned.

Ask: • So what did you figure out about helping people who are sinning?

• Based on these verses, what could you think about differently the next time you want to tattle on someone?

Say: These verses say to help another believer who is overcome by sin. That means it's not our job to judge people who don't even know Jesus. And it's also not our job to point out every little sin in other Christians. We also learned that people who are godly should help others who are overcome by sin. It goes back to what Jesus said: Get the log out of your own eye first.

And the verses say to gently and humbly help people back onto the right path. In other words, help them find ways to make better choices instead of just rooting for them to get in trouble. One way to make sure you're doing that is to think through the reasons you want to tattle on someone or comment about what that person is doing wrong. You can ask yourself questions like this:

- Is it because you want to get that person in trouble?
- Or is it because you really care about that person and want what's best for them? Ask: • How do those questions help you think about your motivation?
- Tell about a time you just wanted someone to get in trouble. Share your own story first.

Say: If you just want to get someone in trouble, that's not helpful. But if you have a close friend who keeps doing the same wrong thing, and you've made sure you're wearing your armor, you can come alongside that friend and help them make better choices.

So when we fight evil with righteousness, we do it by letting the body armor of God's righteousness protect our hearts. That example can be the best help of all to someone who's struggling with sin.

Memory Verse Mania:

Supplies:

- Leader Tracking Sheets (1 set per group in leader folder)
- Memory Verse Mania Instruction Page (1 per leader in leader folder)
- Memory Verse Posters (1 copy for each kid)
- blocks (not interlocking)

Tips

- If you have only interlocking blocks, simply have kids create block towers by laying the bricks sideways on their smooth sides so they don't lock in place.

Explain Memory Verse Mania

Say: This Spring Impact Kids groups will be taking a Memory Verse Challenge called Memory Verse Mania. In this challenge, each week we will practice the verse. If you think you have it memorized before we practice, leaders will take time during Family Table to listen to you and mark on their Leader Tracking Sheets. Then on Feb 4, Mar 4, Mar 11, and April 29 you will get the chance to win a prize in our drawing. On May 6, we will celebrate everyone who memorized all the verses. If you can do it, we will share other verses from our lessons in the Fall to add to your memory banks. Storing God's Word in our hearts, helps us in the future. Are you ready to take the challenge? Here is your chance to practice the verse for this week. *(Send Posters home with kids- if kids already have a poster, there is no need to send more home.)*

“Therefore, put on every piece of God’s armor
so you will be able to resist the enemy
in the time of evil. Then after the battle
you will still be standing firm.”

Ephesians 6:13

Memory Verse Mania cont.

Learn a Verse

Say: Today we've heard what Jesus told the Pharisees about only pretending to be righteous—pretending to have their hearts right with God.

Let's learn a Bible verse that can help us understand that when we do the right thing out of love for God, we fight evil with righteousness. Even though God inspired people to write the Bible a long time ago, it still matters for us today. We can always learn from the Bible!

In the Bible book of Ephesians, chapter 6, verse 13, it says, "Therefore, put on every piece of God's armor so that you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm." Guide kids in repeating the Bible verse once more, in shorter phrases at a time.

Say: Let's see why having every piece of the armor helps us stand firm.

Have kids form mixed-age trios. Invite trios to work together to build a sturdy tower with the blocks, having at least three blocks on each row of the tower. Alternate the direction of the blocks in each row so they lay perpendicular across each other. (This should resemble the game Jenga.)

Ask: • How strong would you say your tower is?

Say: These towers are pretty strong with every block in place. But let's see what happens when we don't have every block.

- Allow kids to take turns removing one block at a time.
- After each block is removed, lead everyone in repeating the Bible verse.
- Continue until the block towers fall.
- If time allows, let the kids rebuild and then repeat removing blocks one at a time.

Talk About It

Ask: • What did you notice as you started taking blocks out of the tower?

- Why was each block important to help the tower stand strong?
- Our Bible verse says to wear every piece of God's armor. Why is that important?

Say: Putting on every piece of God's armor helps us stand strong so we're not like a crumbling tower that has a piece missing. We need each piece of the armor, including the body armor of God's righteousness, so we can fight evil with righteousness. When our hearts are right with God, his body armor protects our hearts!

Activity Page with a Point

Supplies Needed:

- Activity Page
- colored pencils
- crayons

Pass out activity pages and supplies.

SAY: We've explored how we fight evil with righteousness. As Jesus explained to the Pharisees, that doesn't mean just doing the right thing. It means doing it because we love God! Jesus found a lot wrong with the Pharisees. Let's see what you can find wrong with this picture—but you'll have to look quickly!

Distribute the activity pages facedown, along with pencils. When you say "go," kids can briefly flip the pages over for about three seconds, then turn them facedown again.

Ask: • What mistakes did you notice?

Say: Let's take a closer look. Let kids flip their pages over, and this time, they can look until they find all the mistakes.

Ask: • What was the difference between a quick look and looking more closely?

• Why do you think it was hard for most people to see the problem with the Pharisees?

Say: To most people, the Pharisees seemed righteous. They followed God's rules better than anyone! But Jesus looked closer and spotted some problems. He saw that their hearts weren't in the right place! It's not hard to look like we're good people at a quick glance. But God sees our hearts. We're righteous when we do the right things for the right reasons—and with Jesus' help. We fight evil with righteousness.

ANSWER KEY:

