



LIVE IT OUT

next steps
IN DISCIPLESHIP

Impact Kids Spring 2026 Older Kids Leader Guide

April 22, 2026

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 22** Acts 16:25-40 We fight evil with salvation.

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
- 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 helmet of salvation—which means being friends with Jesus!

When we believe in Jesus, it’s like putting on a helmet to protect our minds.

- Have each child cut a small half-circle of aluminum foil to fit on the knight’s head.
- Kids can glue their helmets to the knight, one on top of the other, so you end up with a thick layer of foil that makes a substantial helmet.
- You’ll continue to add to the knight handout for one more week, so leave it up.

Share

- Tell kids about the best news you’ve ever had to share.
- Have kids form pairs. Ask kids to tell about the best news they’ve ever had to share.
- After partners have shared, ask two or three kids to share with the whole group.

Summarize

Open a Bible to Ephesians 6 and say: That was a lot of great news! In the Bible, Paul and Silas had some great news to share about how Jesus offers salvation! Salvation is a word that means Jesus died to save us from being separated from God. Let’s find out what happened to Paul and Silas in God’s special book, the Bible. But first, let’s talk with God because he made a way for us to be saved! Let’s do that now.

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

Talk About Video:

Discuss and Watch “Olivia & Elyse’s Story”

Say: We’re learning that we fight evil with salvation. When Paul was in prison and an earthquake set him and his friend free, they didn’t even leave! They stuck around to tell the jailer about Jesus. And we can do the same thing.

Let’s watch the story of some twins who did just that.

Watch “Olivia & Elyse’s Story.”

Ask: • What can you learn from the way Olivia and Elyse helped Uncle Martin?

- Who is someone you can tell about Jesus?
- What will you tell that person?

Say: God wants everyone to know him. When you believe in Jesus, you’re wearing the helmet of salvation! And the best news is, there’s enough helmets for everyone! Like Olivia and Elyse, we can tell other people about Jesus so Jesus can free them from the punishment for what they’ve done wrong.

Deeper Bible:

Supplies

- Bibles
- foam cups (at least 6, or 1 per child)
- winter hat
- graduation cap (or just a square of cardboard)
- baseball cap
- headband
- crown
- helmet, such as a football or bike helmet

Set It Up

Say: We’re learning that salvation, or being friends with Jesus, is like a helmet. But you know, not everyone in the world agrees that Jesus is the way to find salvation. So are there other hats we could put on that would make us right with God so we can go to heaven? Why is salvation through Jesus the best helmet? Let’s dig in to that.

Dig Deeper

Say: Let’s figure out the answer to our question by experimenting with different hats!

Ask: • Besides Jesus, what are some things people think could get them to heaven or make God like them more? As kids answer, use their answers to explore the hats in each section below. You can go in any order, so let kids guide the experience by thinking of how people try to get to heaven. If kids say something that’s not like anything on the list, thank them for their answers and move on. If kids miss anything on the list, you can cover it at the end before moving on to the helmet.

Trying to Get to Heaven by Doing Good Things

- Hold up the winter hat.

Say Some people feel really good about doing good things. It gives them a warm, fuzzy feeling—like this winter hat. And they think if they do enough good things, they’ll go to heaven—all the warm, fuzzy, good things they do will outweigh the bad things they’ve done. Let’s see how that holds up!

- Set out a foam cup. **Say:** Imagine this is your head. Place the winter hat on the cup, and invite a child to come up and use a fist to pound straight down on the hat, which will smash the cup. If you brought enough cups for each child to have one, have about one-sixth of your kids take a turn, each with a new cup. **Say:** Interesting. Those warm, fuzzy, good deeds don’t protect our heads very well!

Read Ephesians 2:8-9.

Say Well, no wonder! The Bible tells us the good things we do won’t save us.

Trying to Get to Heaven by Being Smart

Hold up the graduation cap. If you're using a square of cardboard, have kids use their imaginations to pretend it's a graduation cap.

Say: Some people think if you know a lot of stuff, you can outsmart God, and then surely you can get into heaven! You just have to be smart. Let's see how that works out.

Set the cap on a cup, and have one (or one-sixth) of your kids smash the cup through the cap.

Read 1 Corinthians 1:19-21.

Say: Hmm...knowledge isn't bad, but we never really know as much as we think. Loving God is way more important!

Trying to Get to Heaven by Living a Happy Life

Hold up the baseball cap.

Say: Some people think we should just do whatever entertains us and makes us feel good. The happier we are on earth, the happier we'll be for all eternity. A baseball cap can remind us of that, because baseball is entertaining!

Let's try that one out as a helmet. Set the cap on a cup, and then have one (or one-sixth) of your kids smash the cup through the cap.

Say: Baseball isn't bad, but it won't get us to heaven! Listen to this.

Read Ephesians 2:3-5.

Trying to Get to Heaven by Looking Good to Others

Hold up the headband.

Say: Some people try to look good to others. The better you look to others, the better you'll look to God, right? Well...let's see. Put the headband on a cup, and have one (or one-sixth) of your kids smash the cup through the headband.

Say: Yikes! I don't think God is fooled by our attempts to look good.

Read Proverbs 31:30.

Trying to Be Rich Enough to Get to Heaven

Say: Some people think if you're rich and important, you should get to go to heaven. Let's try a crown for a helmet!

Put the crown on a cup, and have one (or one-sixth) of your kids smash the cup through the crown.

Say: Wealth and power won't get us to heaven, either. Jesus even said that these things can sometimes make it harder for people to believe they need him.

Read Mark 10:25.

Try a Helmet

Say: We've seen a bunch of ways people try to get to heaven that don't make very good helmets, but there's only one helmet of salvation—and Jesus told us what it is!

Read John 14:6.

Put a helmet over a cup, and let all the kids try to smash the cup through the helmet. The helmet will hold strong and protect the cup.

Say: It may seem limiting to think that there's only one way to get to heaven, but there's good news: God has a helmet for every person! He has a spot on the team for anyone who wants it. Jesus talked about that, too.

Read John 14:2.

Say: We fight evil with salvation. Nothing we can try to do on our own can save us—not doing good, not money, not looking good, not being smart, and not just doing whatever we want. But God sent Jesus to die for us so we all have access to the helmet of salvation.

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)
- painter's tape

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's Bible story introduced us to a jailer who learned from Paul and Silas what it means to believe that Jesus forgave our sins. Jesus' forgiveness means we can have a forever friendship with God. The jailer's salvation changed his and his family's lives overnight. Salvation is powerful, and we fight evil with salvation! Let's learn a Bible verse that tells us some more about how we fight evil with pieces of spiritual armor that God gives us, including the helmet of salvation.

An amazing thing about the Bible is it was originally written in three languages. Today it's in hundreds of languages so people around the world can understand it and, like us, learn about the helmet of salvation.

In the Bible book of Ephesians, chapter 6, verse 13 says, "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."

Ask: • Tell about a time you had trouble physically standing firm. Maybe a time where you kept falling instead—what made you so wobbly? Sometimes we're wobbly and off balance with our bodies, and that can help us understand what it's like to feel wobbly in our faith. Let's take a deeper look at that by testing our balance.

- First, refer to the Bible Verse Poster to guide kids in repeating Ephesians 6:13 again, in short phrases.
- Invite kids to lift one leg so they're balancing on one foot.
- Instruct kids to quickly turn their heads back and forth and repeat after you as you say the Bible verse again, all while trying to stay steadily balanced on one foot.
- Allow kids a balance break, and explain that in the next balancing round, they'll need to pick one spot in the room and keep their focus there while they're repeating after you.
- Once kids have picked their focal point, have them balance on one foot again and repeat after you as you say the Bible verse.
- If time allows, repeat the balancing rounds and allow kids to come up with other ways to improve their balance (such as holding one or both arms out or holding an earlobe, if they haven't already done so).

Talk About It

Ask: • How easy or hard was it to stand firm and balance when your focus was moving all over the room?
• What did you discover helped you have better balance?

Say: One key to good balance is to focus or look at one thing. Focus can help us stand firm with our bodies, and it can help us stand firm in our faith when we focus on God.

Ask: • What kinds of things can make us feel wobbly or unsure about what we believe about God?
• What are some ways we could give our focus to God?

Say: When we give our attention to God by praying or [some of the ideas kids just shared], it can help us stand firm in our faith. And one thing that can help us focus on God is remembering to wear our spiritual armor from God, including the helmet of salvation! When we put on each piece of God's armor, we fight evil with salvation and more.

Activity Page with a Point

Supplies Needed:

- Activity Page
- colored pencils
- crayons

Pass out activity pages and supplies.

SAY: Today we learned how we fight evil with salvation. Salvation is like a helmet! In our Bible story, we saw how Paul and Silas helped a jailer find salvation and believe in Jesus. Let's make helmets to remind us of salvation.

Distribute the activity pages. Kids will follow the directions to fold them into helmets. You'll want a few extras that don't get folded so kids can refer to the steps.

Ask: • What steps did you have to take to make your helmet? What steps do you have to take to wear the helmet of salvation?

Say: You had to follow a bunch of steps to make your helmet. But God made salvation very easy for us—he sent Jesus to die for us! All we need to do is believe in Jesus and follow him! Our helmets of salvation are free gifts from God.

Ask: • What does a helmet do? How well do you think this helmet could do those things?
• How does a helmet remind you of what Jesus does when he saves us?

Say: Helmets protect us from getting hurt or even dying from head injury. The helmet you just made won't do that, but a real helmet will! And salvation is the best helmet of all. Jesus protects us from eternal death—being separated from God. He gives us life! We fight evil with salvation.