



LIVE IT OUT

next steps
IN DISCIPLESHIP

Impact Kids Spring 2026 Older Kids Leader Guide April 8, 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 8- Luke 22:47-53; John 18:1-11 We fight evil with peace. **Theme Night**

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 shoes of peace. They can remind us to walk in peace.

- Have kids each cut two pieces of aluminum foil to fit on the knight’s feet.
- Kids can glue the shoes to the knight one on top of the other so you end up with a thick stack of foil that makes thick shoes.
- You’ll continue to add to the “Knight” handout for several weeks, so leave it up.

Share

- Tell kids about your favorite pair of shoes.
- Have kids form pairs. Ask kids to share about their favorite shoes.
- After partners have shared, ask two or three kids to share with the whole group.

Summarize

Open a Bible to Ephesians 6, and say: We have some fun shoes. But the best shoes aren’t ones we can see in our closets. They’re God’s shoes of peace! In today’s Bible story, we’ll find out how Jesus’ friend tried to fight evil with violence. But Jesus knew we fight evil with peace. Let’s find out more in God’s special book, the Bible. We can always turn to the Bible when we need peace! And we can also talk with God. Let’s do that now.

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

Talk About Video:

Discuss and Watch “Peacekeepers”

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

Ask: • Tell about a time you kept peace in a tough situation. Share your own story first.

Say: Keeping peace can be hard! There are some people who need to try to keep peace in really tough situations every day! Let’s hear from one of them.

Watch “Peacekeepers.”

Ask: • After watching this video, would you want to be a police officer?

Why or why not?

• Officer Spencer said talking calmly with someone in person can help keep peace. How could you try that tip this week?

Say: You don’t have to be a police officer to keep the peace. In fact, you’re all peacekeepers because you’re all in God’s army, fighting against evil! But this battle isn’t fought with violence; we fight evil with peace.

Deeper Bible:

Supplies

- Bibles

Arm Wrestle

- Have kids find partners of a similar size and sit across from each other at a table.
- Allow time for partners to arm wrestle each other.
- After pairs have finished their competitions, have them play again. This time, the child who won round 1 has to let the other child win.

Ask: • How did you feel when you won the arm-wrestling match?

• How did you feel when I told you to let the other person win?

• When you’re in a fight with a friend, what do you do to try to win the argument?

Say: It’s no fun to arm wrestle if you have to let the other person win. And when we’re in an argument, we usually want to win that, too! We want to get the last word in and make the other person feel bad for what the person did to us.

In our Bible story, Jesus let the other people win. He let the other people arrest him, even though Peter tried to fight. Why did he do that? And are we supposed to let other people win, too? Does making peace mean we can’t even stand up for ourselves? Let’s dig in to that.

Dig Deeper

Say: First of all, we need to know why Jesus did what he did.

Read 1 Peter 3:18.

Ask: • Why did Jesus die on the cross?

Say: Jesus told Peter not to fight and even let people hurt him, because he knew it was part of God's specific plan for him to die for our sins. He knew Peter's actions weren't part of God's plan. That doesn't mean we need to let other people hurt us. If you're getting physically hurt, you can get help from someone who can keep you safe!

But when we're just in an argument, or when someone makes us mad, we can stand up for ourselves with words rather than violence. Here's how.

Read Proverbs 12:16.

Ask: • What advice can you learn from this verse?

Say: Let's face it, no one likes a bully. Someone saying mean things can make you feel embarrassed, sad, or even angry. While the mean words are meant to hurt you, you have an inner strength the bully can't see. God has given you the special ability to stay calm and to make the words powerless. With every hurtful word someone may say, you keep thinking to yourself, "I'm much wiser than you, and your foolish words aren't true!" That's a great way to be wise and stay calm.

Have kids each tell a partner about a real-life fight they've had and how they could've used this advice

Say: When we do respond to people who are mad at us, here's some more advice.

Read Proverbs 15:1.

Ask: • How could you respond gently when you're in the middle of an argument?

Say: Everyone loses their temper at one time or another. But think about two people losing their tempers as if it were a campfire. Each harsh word said is like throwing a piece of wood on the fire. With every piece of wood added, the fire gets bigger. Now imagine what would happen if you started putting water instead of wood on the fire. Eventually the water would win and the fire would go out. God can give you the shoes of peace to put out fires with your gentle words! For example, you might say, "I understand you're angry, and I'm sorry you're upset." Or you might ask questions in a calm voice to help understand the other person's point of view. Have partners practice doing this as if they were in the real-life scenarios they shared earlier.

Say: Here's something else to know about fights.

Read Proverbs 15:18.

Ask: • How can you stop a fight from happening?

Say: One way to stop a fight is to put on those shoes of peace and walk away. Or you could say, "Please stop" or "I see that you're upset, but I don't want to fight with you." Think of it this way: Which takes more strength? To lose your temper, say a bunch of hurtful things, and start a fight? Or to be able to remain calm and cool under pressure and avoid the fight? We fight evil with peace, so you can be the stronger warrior by keeping your emotions in check.

Have partners practice this tip together, using their real-life scenarios.

Say: Sometimes peace is out of your control. But God calls you to do what you can to keep peace.

Read Romans 12:18.

Ask: • What are things that are in your control for living at peace?

Say: If someone just wants to fight, you may have to avoid spending time with that person. But when you do have to be around people who want to fight, remember to stay calm, speak gently, and try to stop the fight. Walking away doesn't mean you're letting the other person win. Not getting the last word doesn't mean you lose. It means you're fighting evil with peace. And God can help us do that! Let's ask for his help.

Pray: God, put your shoes of peace on us and let us remain calm and speak gently when other people are angry. Help us use our words to share about you rather than argue. In Jesus' name, amen.

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

Tip

Pretend play may seem babyish if you have preteens, so appoint them as leaders to help the little ones put on their gear! If you have mostly older kids, you could cut the imaginative play and just have them name gear they need, challenging them to think of everything so you don't catch them missing an item.

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: In today's Bible story we heard about the night Peter cut an ear off one of the men sent to arrest Jesus. Jesus healed the man, bringing peace to a scary situation and showing that we fight evil with peace. Let's learn a Bible verse that tells us more about how we fight evil.

The Bible may seem like a big book with stories—sometimes intense stories—that must be for grown-ups, but the Bible is for everyone.

Ephesians 6:13 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." Direct attention to the Bible Verse Poster, and use it to guide kids in repeating the verse in shorter phrases.

Sometimes we want to do fun adventures that require wearing a lot of gear. Let's use our imaginations and have some fun acting out times this might happen!

First, let's imagine we're about to head out to play on a very cold, blizzardy day. Pause and let kids close their eyes if they like. Are you seeing snow and feeling the chill? It'll be so fun to play in those big snowflakes, but we need to have all the right gear to keep us warm from head to toe or our snow day adventure will leave us freeeezing.

- As kids imagine, have them call out things they'd need to wear—from head to toe—and together act out putting on all those things. Discuss if anything was missed and why missing something (such as mittens) could mean discomfort and even harm.
- Lead everyone in repeating the Bible verse.
- Next, launch into a similar imaginative discussion, but this time pretend to prepare for a scuba diving adventure. Let kids help you think of all the gear they need to wear.
- Repeat the Bible verse again.
- Enjoy as many rounds of imagination as time allows, repeating the Bible verse between each round. You could pretend to get ready for the following activities:
 - going to outer space as an astronaut
 - becoming a firefighter and getting ready to fight a fire
 - putting on safety gear and useful tools to help build a house

Talk About It

Say: Thanks for using your imaginations with me and getting ready for some adventures or important jobs.

Ask: • Pick one thing we imagined putting on. What could happen if we forgot that item?

• God's armor includes lots of pieces, but today we're learning about the shoes of peace. What could happen if we don't wear our shoes of peace?

Say: Like these real-life situations, there's some important protective gear we need to put on each day. It's God's armor, and it's important to put on every piece, including the shoes of peace. We fight evil with peace and with each part of God's armor.

Activity Page with a Point

Supplies Needed:

- Activity Page
- colored pencils
- crayons
- envelopes for puzzle
- scissors

Pass out activity pages and supplies.

SAY: We've explored how we fight evil with peace. Peter used violence when he swung his sword at some enemies. But Jesus chose peace and healed the man. Let's cut up our page to remind us of Peter cutting with his sword.

Then we'll put the pieces back together to show peace.

Distribute the activity pages and scissors. Kids will cut up the page into pieces, then assemble it like a puzzle.

Ask: • What are some things we do that are like cutting up the page—not choosing peace?
• How can Jesus help us choose peace instead?

Say: We fight evil with peace. The next time you want to react out of anger, take out your puzzle and scramble it up. Then pray for Jesus to help you choose peace as you put the puzzle together. Provide envelopes so kids can take their puzzles home.