Wearing God’s Armor

“Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand” (Ephesians 6:13).

Have you ever felt as though Satan is finding just the right temptation to separate you from God? How can you stand up against this constant attack? Let’s listen in on Mr. Andrews’ Bible class and hear what he has to say on the subject.

What’s that?” Trevor asked.
“What does it look like?”
Trevor decided to play it safe. No smart answers. “I don’t know,” he said.
Mr. Andrews finished his sketch on the blackboard. He put down the chalk and dusted his hands together. “Does anybody know what this animal is?” he asked.
“A tadpole?” Marianne suggested.
“A lizard?” Matthew asked.
“I might as well put you out of your misery,” Mr. Andrews responded. “You already know that I’m not the world’s greatest artist. It’s an animal you’ve never seen before.” He grinned at the class. “It’s a turtle without its shell.”

“I wonder why I didn’t think of that,” Trevor mused out loud. The class laughed.

“OK,” Mr. Andrews said, getting down to business, “so you’ve never seen a turtle without a shell. Why not?”

“A turtle can’t live without a shell!” Marianne exclaimed.

“Of course it can’t,” Mr. Andrews agreed. “A turtle is a pretty feeble little
animal. It’s slow. It’s defenseless. It completely depends on its shell to protect it and preserve it.”

Mr. Andrews paused and looked around the room. “And that brings me to the Bible lesson for today,” he said. “Christians are a lot like turtles.”

Trevor and Matthew looked at one another.

Mr. Andrews opened his Bible. He began to read. “Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes’” (Ephesians 6:11).

Mr. Andrews looked up. “Does anyone remember what the Bible says about the devil? He is going around like a...”
Thursday

**READ**  Read Matthew 6:9-13; Matthew 26:36-44; and Mark 1:35.

**THINK**  What was Jesus’ best protection against the devil? What did God promise that will strengthen our defenses? How will you follow Jesus’ example?

**ASK**  Ask an adult about a time they felt God was especially protecting them spiritually.

**REVIEW**  Review the power text.

**PRAY**  Ask God to help you accept His protection.

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Friday

**READ**  Read Ephesians 6:10-18.

**ACT**  For family worship, act out Ephesians 6:10-18 by having someone read the verses while you pantomime putting the armor on. Afterward, talk about each item and how it protects us.

**MAKE**  Using whatever medium you wish (clay, plaster, wire hangers, papier-mâché, etc.), sculpt an object that for you best symbolizes God’s protection in your life.

**REPEAT**  Say the power text from memory.

**PRAY**  Ask God to cover you with His armor today.

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“I know! I know!” Matthew waved his hand in the air. “Like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour!”

“That’s what the Bible tells us,” Mr. Andrews said. “It tells us that we are no match at all for the devil. We are like little turtles without shells.”

“But God gives us armor!” Marianne put in. “He gives us protection.”

“That’s right!” Mr. Andrews agreed. “And God’s armor covers all of us. He gives us salvation for a helmet to cover our heads. He gives us His righteousness as a body armor. He gives us truth as a sturdy belt. He even protects our feet with the peace of His good news. He doesn’t leave any part of us out there exposed to danger.

“Look in Ephesians 6 and find out what He gives us for a shield.”

“I’ve got it!” Trevor said. “‘In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one,’” he read (verse 16).

“That tells us that Satan is shooting fiery arrows at us,” Mr. Andrews pointed out. “It doesn’t say that he might; it says that he is. But God gives us a shield to protect us. A kind of double protection between us and our enemy. A shield and armor. Think how hopeless life would be if we didn’t have God’s armor!”

“That is what I want you to remember,” Mr. Andrews continued. “We are in a war. On our own, with our own strength and power, we would be absolute losers in a battle with the devil. There’s no question about it. But when we are protected by the armor that God provides, we will be absolute winners. Every time. No question about it. Because He has already won the war.”
“Notice the next part,” Matthew added in. “It says, ‘And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people’” (verse 18).

Mr. Andrews beamed at Matthew in delight. “That’s it! You’ve got it!” He looked at the whole class. He spread his arms dramatically. “That’s the key, my little turtles,” he said. “Pray, pray, pray! And constantly wear God’s armor, the true source of protection in the spiritual battle against the enemy.”
Fill in the blanks using the words in the list below to find out what God has provided us with to protect us from the devil. Some words are used more than once. In every place that the word “you” is used, replace it with your name.

“Finally, be _______________ in the Lord and in his mighty _______________. Put on the full _______________ of God, so that _______________ can take your _______________ against the devil’s schemes. For our struggle is not _______________ flesh and blood, but against the _______________, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the _______________ forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full _______________ of God, so that when the day of evil comes, _______________ may be able to _______________ your _______________, and after _______________ have done everything, to _______________. Stand _______________ then, with the belt of _______________ buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of _______________ in place, and with your _______________ fitted with the readiness that comes from the _______________ of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of _______________, with which _______________ can extinguish all the _______________ arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of _______________ and the sword of the _______________, which is the _______________ of God. And _______________ in the _______________ on _______________ occasions with all kinds of _______________ and requests. With this in mind, be _______________ and _______________ keep on praying for _______________ the Lord’s _______________.”

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