

# We Are...Soldiers

- All Pre-Class
- Arrange tables and chairs.
  - Pray for tonight's class.
  - Have music playing.
  - Take attendance.

7:00-7:20

## REVIEW

Choose an activity or activities from the following ideas:

- Review previous lessons.
  - Ask questions regarding the last few lessons using the "We Are... Review Questions" and "Jesus is...A through Z Review Questions" (in KPH binder). Reward correct answers with Starbursts, etc.
  - Play "baseball" with the review questions. Have the entire class play as one team, trying to beat a score of 20 runs (their record), or divide them into two teams and see which team can score the most runs. An incorrect answer equals an out. After three outs, it's the other team's turn to "bat" (or if playing with the entire class as one team, clear the bases of "runners" after three outs). Make sure each team gets an equal number of "at bats." Have another teacher keep track of outs and points on the marker board.
  - Play musical chairs. When the music stops, ask the player without a chair a review question. If the student answers correctly, he or she gets to stay in the game.
  - Divide the group into pairs. Give each pair one of the "mini posters" with adjectives and titles of Jesus (i.e., the "A" sheet or the "B" sheet, etc.; in KPH binder). Have each team work together to memorize every adjective or title on their sheet. Then have them come up front and recite them to the class.
  - Have a student come to the front of the class and pick a letter (A-Z) out of a bag and then try to remember all the adjectives/titles that go with that letter.
  - Play A-M or N-Z "BINGO" with adjectives/titles.
- Review other previously memorized items. Use cardboard chart and cards with books of the Bible, as well as other props.
  - "One God," "Sin and Repentance," etc., verses that students have been working on.
    - Sing verses set to song
  - Books of the Old and New Testaments
  - Divisions of Old and New Testaments

All 7:20-7:40

### BIBLE MEMORY WORK

Divide the class into four groups: two each for 5- to 7-year-olds and 8- to 10-year-olds, one teacher with each group. (To cut down on noise and confusion, two groups may leave the room to practice verses in the hallway, stairwell, or another classroom.)

Students will work on memorizing doctrinal verses. Each student will have his/her own list or booklet to work from, containing a chart for teachers to initial as students quote the verses one at a time, two at a time, etc. (Teachers: Please read instructions on the bottom Bible memory work charts or in the front of the booklets.)

Coloring pages with the 10 Commandments or other Bible verses are available (in the KPH binder) to help occupy visitors or younger/distracted students while their classmates are working on verses.

- Remind students that there will be prizes for those who pass with a score of 80 percent or better.
- Remind students that during Bible Memory Work time, everyone must be working, not distracting others. They should help each other learn the verses. It's fun working together!

7:40-7:45

### RULES & PRAYER

- Review "Power Hour Promises" with the students, reminding them of proper behavior during class.
- Pray together, thanking God for your time together and praying that each person will understand and obey God's Word and grow into a strong Christian.

7:45-8:05

### BIBLE LESSON

Teacher Prep: Read 2 Timothy 2:1-4, Ephesians 6:10-18, 1 Timothy 6:12, and 2 Timothy 4:7-8. Pray for anointing.

Items Needed: "We Are..." display board; Bible; pictures of modern soldiers (from books or the internet); pictures of knights (from books or the

internet); "Armor of God Visuals"; and "Soldiers Visual."

#### Introduction

During the first part of the year we learned about Jesus' titles and adjectives from A through Z. Refer to the "Jesus is...A through Z" board.

Now we are learning about some of the things that the Bible says we Christians are. Refer to the "We Are..." display board. All of these things are metaphors (comparisons) that describe a little bit of what we are to Jesus and to others.

Listen to 2 Timothy 2:3 for another comparison.

Read 2 Timothy 2:3 from your Bible.

- 2 Timothy 2:3 says we should endure hard times like a what? (*soldier*)
- What is a soldier? (*a person who serves in an army*)

This is what soldiers look like today. Show pictures of soldiers. This is what soldiers looked like many years ago. Show pictures of knights.

Discuss/compare the weapons and protective gear of modern soldiers versus knights.

#### Lesson

Paul describes the Christian's protective gear in Ephesians 6. He calls it the "Armor of God."

- What are the six parts of the Armor of God? (*head to toe: helmet of salvation, breastplate of righteousness, belt of truth, shoes of the gospel of peace, shield of faith, and sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God*)

Show "Armor of God Visuals" (tape them together beforehand so they hang vertically).

We'll study each of these items in more detail in a future quarter. Right now, I just want you to realize that you cannot be a good soldier of Jesus Christ if you're not wearing His

armor. You cannot make your own armor. *His* salvation, righteousness, truth, peace, and faith are your only protection. *His* Word is your only weapon.

- **Why do we need a weapon? What are we fighting *against*?** (allow responses; then read and discuss the following)

**Read Ephesians 6:11-12 from your Bible.**

We are fighting against the devil and spirits of darkness and evil; against temptation and sin; against everything that is against God.

As soldiers of Jesus Christ, it's important to remember we are never fighting against *people*!

But soldiers don't just fight *against* things. They fight *for* a cause.

- **What are we fighting *for*?** (allow responses; then read and discuss the following)

**Read 1 Timothy 6:12 from your Bible.**

We are fighting for faith and eternal life. We are fighting for everything Jesus Christ stands for.

Life Application

(As you make the following statements, ask students to join in each time saying, "fighting the good fight!")

➤ Whenever we guard our thoughts, remembering Jesus has saved and cleansed us, we're...fighting the good fight.

Helmet of Salvation

➤ Whenever we do good instead of evil (bad), we're...fighting the good fight.

Breastplate of Righteousness

➤ Whenever we tell the truth instead of lying, we're...fighting the good fight.

Belt of Truth

➤ Whenever we share the Gospel (the good news about Jesus), we're...fighting the good fight.

Shoes of the Gospel of Peace

➤ Whenever we have faith that God will do what He says, we're...fighting the good fight.

Shield of Faith

➤ Whenever we read, study, memorize, teach, or preach God's Word, we're...fighting the good fight.

Sword of Spirit— Word of God

- Why is it important to keep fighting and never give up (surrender) to the devil? (*allow responses; then read and discuss the following*)

Listen to what the Apostle Paul said at the end of his life. Show "Soldiers Visual" and have a student read 2 Timothy 4:7-8 from it.

There's a reward for faithful soldiers! I want to receive that crown of righteousness. I want to hear Jesus say, "Well done!" How about you?

Have a student attach the "Soldiers Visual" to the "We Are..." display board.

Let's pray right now and ask God to help us be good soldiers. If you have not received His Spirit, ask Him to fill you up. You need His Spirit so that you will have His armor. If you have received His Spirit, pray that you will keep His armor on and keep fighting the good fight.

Lead the kids in prayer—response to lesson.

8:05-8:15

#### BIBLE SKILLS

Use the "Books of the Bible" display board to point things out as you ask these questions:

- How many books are in the New Testament? (*27 [3 letters in the word "New" x 9 letters in the word "Testament" = 27]*)
- What is the largest division in the New Testament? (*Letters [Epistles]*)
- How many Letters are in the New Testament? (*21*)
- Who wrote most of the New Testament Letters? (*Paul*)

Hand out Bibles. Remind students to handle Bibles carefully and to help younger students find verses.

Find Paul's second letter to the people who lived in Corinth. Find 2 Corinthians 10:4-5.

Have a student read 2 Corinthians 10:4-5 aloud.

We don't fight with the kinds of weapons the world uses (guns, tanks, bombs, etc.), but God gives us mighty weapons (His Spirit, His Word) to bring down everything that is against Him.

Now find Paul's second letter to Timothy, whom he considered to be his spiritual son. Find 2 Timothy 2:4.

Have a student read 2 Timothy 2:4 aloud.

Jesus chose us to be in His army. Let's make Him proud!

Choose a couple of students to carefully collect the Bibles.

8:15-8:30

ACTIVITY/SNACK

Supplies:

SPAM

Crackers

Plates and/or paper towels or napkins

Water (cups as needed)

Copies of "Armor of God Matching Activity Sheet"

Crayons

Explain how to do the matching activity sheet.

Say: During World War II, fresh meat was hard to get, so soldiers began to eat a lot of SPAM, a canned meat. This meat lasts a long time because it is preserved in the can. Historically, soldiers have also eaten hard biscuits or crackers because they too don't spoil easily. While you're doing your matching activity sheet, I'll bring around a snack of SPAM and crackers for you soldiers.

Hand out activity sheets and crayons. Serve SPAM, crackers, and water. Have the kids say a prayer of thanks for their snack before they eat it.

If time remains, have students do a REVIEW activity.