

Prayer Protection

Lesson Overview

When Jesus taught us to pray for protection from the devil, He knew that we would face daily temptation and sin. Children face daily temptation and sin, too. And, we can teach them that they can be confident in Jesus' promise to help them, just as we are. In fact, as adults we may have become hesitant to pray with the confidence that optimistic children often display.

David was a man after God's heart. Even when he was young, he eagerly volunteered to fight the Philistine giant, Goliath. David knew his strength came from God. He was sure God could use even a physically disadvantaged young man to defeat this nine-foot tall giant! Calling on the name of God, David used a well-aimed stone to kill the giant.

This famous story shows us the power of God over His enemies. The enemy we have faced throughout history and continue to face today is Satan. But Paul gives a powerful picture of how we can use the Word and prayer to gain advantage against this spiritual enemy by putting on the "full armor of God," (Ephesians 6:13-18). Use this lesson to encourage children to boldly use prayer to overcome the temptation and sin they face.

Going Deeper

One of the most powerful ways you can pray is to simply speak out Scripture from the Bible. We open the door to the power of God when we confess Scriptures and promises that apply to whatever we are praying for. Take time to look up what the Bible has to say about whatever it is you are praying for in your life. You will find scriptures that you will be able to speak out as you pray for particular situations. God's Word is full of personal promises and spiritual laws that we can claim as we pray powerfully over situations and issues we face in life.



Power Point

We can pray for spiritual protection from temptation and sin.

Scripture Memory Verse

"Keep us from being tempted and protect us from evil."

—Matthew 6:13

Bible Lesson

The story of David and Goliath.

—1 Samuel 17:1-54

Everything You Need

Note: For a listing of basic supplies to keep on hand, see p. 13.

Game #1: 2 rolls of toilet paper, transparent tape.

Game #2: 4 sheets of newspaper, masking tape.

Praise and Worship: *Bible and Praise* DVD

Lesson Introduction: Bicycle helmet, hiking boots, elbow pads, winter coat, umbrella, sun-block.

Scripture Memory Verse: Lesson 5 Scripture Memory Verse from *Leader Resources* CD-ROM, 5 mouse-traps, 5 small pieces of cheese, 5 twigs, marker.

Bible Connection: Lesson 5 Bible Connection from *Bible & Praise* DVD.

Bible Lesson: 5 copies of script from *Leader Resources* CD-ROM.

Object Lesson #1: Bible, a suit of costume armor or comparable props (football helmet, belt, life jacket, boots, trash can lid, broom handle).

Object Lesson #2: None.

Today's Life Story: Lesson 5 Today's Life Story from *Leader Resources* CD-ROM.

Welcome

Start your service with high energy as you welcome the kids and open in prayer. See page 18 in this *Leader's Manual* for helpful welcoming tips.

Game #1

Toilet Paper Relay

Review Questions

(Ask the following questions. Select one boy and one girl who answer the review questions correctly to be participants in Game #1. Each one will select five teammates for the game for a total of 12 participants.)

- Complete the Scripture Memory Verse from last week: Matthew 6:12 (*"Forgive us for doing wrong, as we forgive others."*)
- In last week's Bible Lesson, what did David do to Saul in the cave to show that he could have killed Saul but wouldn't? (*He crept up behind Saul and cut off a piece of Saul's robe.*)

Props: 2 rolls of toilet paper, transparent tape.

Participants: A team of 6 girls and a team of 6 boys.

Playing: Teams line up single file. Give the first person on each team a roll of toilet paper. When a signal is given, the players are to quickly, but carefully, unwind the toilet paper over their heads, as they hand the roll to each team member in the line. The teams continue to unwind their roll up and down the line without allowing the paper to tear. If the toilet paper tears, provide transparent tape so that the team can tape the paper together again before continuing. The first team to unwind their entire roll of toilet paper wins.

Game #2

Newspaper Shuffle Relay

Review Questions

(Ask the following questions. Select one boy and one girl who answer the review questions correctly to be participants in Game #2. Each one will select two teammates for the game for a total of six participants. The girls should be wearing pants for this relay.)

- In last week's adventure of EarthMan and Roger, what was it that Roger and his friends broke at the beginning of the story? (*They broke a car window.*)
- The man that owned the car had decided to forgive the boys, so why did some of them wind up getting in trouble after all? (*They listened to the lies and tricks of Dr. Diabolico and decided to "Make those other kids pay!" but wound up messing things up even more!*)

Props: 4 sheets of newspaper, masking tape.

Participants: A team of 3 boys and a team of 3 girls.

Playing: Use tape to mark a starting line. Set two chairs at equal distance from the starting line at the back of the room. The first person on each team is given two pieces of newspaper. Players then race from the starting point, around the chairs and back to the next team member, stepping only on newspaper. They step on the paper in front of them, then turn around, pick up the one behind them and place it in front. If someone steps off the paper, he has to go back to the starting point and begin again. The first team to finish the race wins.

Praise & Worship

Lead the children in a powerful time of entering God's presence using the worship songs from the *Bible & Praise* DVD. Before you begin, remind children that singing their prayers during praise and worship can be another way to talk to God.

Lesson Introduction

Props: Bicycle helmet, hiking boots, elbow pads, winter coat, umbrella, sun-block.

Presentation

I am ready—ready for anything! Well, I will be ready in a couple of minutes.

(Put on the helmet and elbow pads.) I'm ready to go bike riding. If I have an accident, my head and my elbows will be protected.

(Put on the boots.) If I have an accident and my bike gets broken while I'm out riding, that's OK. I'll have these boots on if I have to hike back home.

(Put on the coat.) And if the weather gets really cold, I'll have this coat to keep me warm.

(Put on some sun block.) And if the sun is shining really bright, I'll be protected from sunburn.

(Open up the umbrella.) And in case it starts raining, I'll have my trusty umbrella to keep me dry!

Like I said, I'm ready! I'll be protected from wrecks, foot injury, cold winds, hot sun, and rain. Oh yeah, there's one more thing!

(Kneel, then close your eyes and pretend to pray. Then stand back up.)

The most important protection of all is spiritual protection! Today we'll be exploring how ***we can pray for spiritual protection from temptation and sin.***

Scripture Memory Verse

"Keep us from being tempted and protect us from evil."

—Matthew 6:13

Props: Lesson 5 Scripture Memory Verse from *Leader Resources* CD-ROM, 5 mouse traps, 5 small pieces of cheese, 5 twigs, marker.

Preparation: On the top side of each trap write, in order, two words from today's memory verse. (Optional: Write the words on pieces of masking tape, which can then be stuck to the trap.)

Practice It

(Display the Lesson 5 Scripture Memory Verse and have everyone read it in unison. Then show the kids that words of the Memory Verse are written on the top sides of the traps. Next, set the traps, putting a piece of cheese on each one.) This would be a tantalizing temptation for a mouse, because mice love cheese. But if the mouse gives in to the temptation, it will probably be the last cheese that mouse ever gets!

Just like people set traps for pesky mice, Satan sets trap for Christians. He tempts us to sin. And sin can be very appealing! Our scripture verse warns us about this. Let's say it together. *(Say verse with kids.)*

Understand It

You are going to face temptations every day! That's why Jesus tells you to pray for the ability to resist sin. If you do yield, watch what happens. *(Use the seven twigs to set off the seven traps.)* Like the cheese, sin looks delicious. But when you yield to temptation, you get trapped by sin!

Live It

What are some temptations Satan uses to trap kids? (Allow responses.) Through prayer, you can ask God to help you resist Satan and his temptations! (Repeat the verse in unison again.)

Bible Lesson

Giant-killing Faith —1 Samuel 17:1-54

Bible Connection

Use the Bible Connection DVD segment before your Bible Lesson as a way to introduce the point of today's lesson, that God wants us to use prayer to overcome the devil's temptations to sin.

A young boy has been grounded and is pouting about it. Suddenly an angel appears to him and asks him what is wrong. The boy tells him that he got into trouble because he couldn't resist throwing food in Kelly's hair. The angel asks him if he prayed about it. The boy says no. The angel goes on to explain that he can help the boy. After the boy prays, the angel produces a rope and during the subsequent two incidents where the boy is tempted [throwing mud at a girl and cheating on a test], the angel yanks the boy away from the situation.

Ask the questions below to discuss the DVD segment.

- ▶ What did the angel tell the grounded boy? (The boy could pray for the angel to protect him from temptations.)
- ▶ What did the angel use to protect the boy from temptation? (A rope.)
- ▶ What things did the angel protect the boy from? (Throwing mud at a girl; cheating on a test.)

Bible Story

Props: 5 copies of the script on page 78. (Optional: armor props for David.)

Preparation: Select five children to read the parts of the Bible story skit, as you read the Narrator role (choose older kids to read the longer parts of David and Goliath). If possible, practice the skit if you are using armor props.

Presentation

Today's Bible lesson takes place after David was anointed by Samuel to be the next king of Israel, but before he went to live in the palace with King Saul and Prince Jonathan. In fact, in today's lesson David meets King Saul for the first time.

Now let's watch our special presentation to see how young David overcame evil.

Present Bible Lesson skit from page 78.

Kids, if God could empower a boy to defeat a nine-foot-tall giant, he can deliver you from every temptation the evil one will throw at you. God wants us to know that ***we can pray for spiritual protection from temptation and sin.***

Object Lesson #1

Props: Bible, a suit of costume armor or comparable props (football helmet, belt, life jacket, boots, trash can lid, broom handle).

Presentation

When soldiers fight, they wear armor for protection against their enemies. Well, the devil is our spiritual enemy, and the Apostle Paul talked about what we need for this spiritual battle. (Read Ephesians 6:10-17 [NIV], pausing to put on each piece of armor as the verses are read.)

Verse 14: Belt of Truth (put on the belt) and the Breastplate of Righteousness (put on the life jacket).

Verse 15: Shoes to take the Good News of Peace (put on the boots).

Verse 16: Shield of Faith (hold up the trash can lid)

Verse 17: Helmet of Salvation (put on the football helmet) and the Sword of the Spirit (pick up the broom handle).

Wow! Now I'm ready! I'm protected!

We all know that this belt, jacket, boots, trash can lid, and football helmet are not really the armor God gives us. But they are an example of spiritual armor that will protect us when we pray to defeat Satan's plans. The real armor might be described like this:

Belt of Truth—Knowing the truth of God's Word.

Breastplate of Righteousness—Protecting your heart as you live for Jesus.

Shoes of the Gospel of Peace—Bringing peace to others as you share Jesus' Gospel.

Helmet of Salvation—Protecting the knowledge of your salvation.

Shield of Faith—Trusting God to protect you from the devil's attacks.

Sword of the Spirit—Our only weapon—the power of God's Word.

But wait a minute! What am I missing? (*Allow responses. Read verses 18-20.*) For the spiritual battle, prayer is essential. ***We can pray for spiritual protection from temptation and sin.*** Let's do that now. (*Lead children in a brief prayer. Use the following prayer, if desired.*)

Holy Father, we ask You to help us to be strong as we live for You in this world. We know there are many ways the devil tries to attack us, but we know Your Son, Jesus, has defeated the devil, and Your Spirit gives us the armor we need to win in this spiritual battle we face daily. Help us to live victorious lives as we follow Jesus. Amen.

Object Lesson #2

Presentation

(*Since there are no props for this object lesson, you will need to act out each situation by pretending that you are the dog and responding appropriately to each description.*)

One day you are outside of your fenced yard playing. Suddenly a big, mean dog jumps out of a truck and starts running towards you, barking furiously! You run inside your yard, and slam the gate just before you hear a "WHAMM!" (*pretend to slam into the wall and fall over backwards with your hands and feet in the air*) as the dog plows into your fence and falls over unconscious! You would know that you are safe because of the fence. That dog can't get to you unless he finds a way to get around the fence.

Or what about those invisible fences that some people have for their dogs. If the dog tries to go past the invisible fence, "BZZZZ!" (*yelp loudly and run the other way*) he gets zapped by electricity! It's sort of like a force field. So if your dog starts to run out into the road, where he could get hit by a car, he gets zapped, and the dog stays put! It works just like a fence, only you can't see it.

Prayer is like that. It forms a barrier around us like a fence forms a barrier around your house. This barrier does two things. First—repeat after me—"It keeps sin from getting in to harm me." (*Kids repeat.*) Second—repeat after me—"It keeps me from getting out to sin." (*Kids repeat.*) How many of you could use a good fence around your life? (*Allow responses.*)

(*Lead your kids through the following prayer. Ask children to repeat each sentence after you.*)

Lord, I know that prayer is one of my most powerful weapons against the enemy. I ask you to build a wall of protection around me by the power of Your Holy Spirit. Please keep me from getting into sin. Help me to be strong and to resist temptation. And most of all, protect me from the lies, tricks and attacks of the devil. God, You are my place of rest and giver of strength! Protect me with Your strong right arm. We believe that ***we can pray for spiritual protection from temptation and sin.*** Amen.

Today's Life Story

For several weeks we've watched that evil Dr. Diabolico as he tried his best to make life miserable for EarthMan and Roger. But he always winds up losing in the end! You'd think that he'd give up, but instead, he fights even harder and comes up with even more mean and nasty tricks. And this week is the worst!

E-Man Topples the D-Men

Illustration 5-1



► Dr. Diabolico has managed to recruit some helpers in his evil plans. All week long he has been training them for one purpose—to capture and destroy EarthMan! As a matter of fact he even calls them “Dr. D’s Destroyer Men,” or D-Men for short. These D-Men are some pretty rough looking characters! And for their first job, Dr. D sent them out to capture some innocent townspeople to use as hostages in order to try and trap EarthMan.

Those poor people. Can you imagine being held hostage—all chained up—in the evil Dr.’s secret lab? That would be awful! But you know what? We have friends and family members that are being held hostage right now by the real enemy, the devil! They are all chained up by sin and temptation! They don’t want to sin, but they can’t help it. Sin is holding on to them too tight! They need to be set free!

Illustration 5-2



► Dr. D then got on his cell phone and called EarthMan back at EarthBase.

“Hello, EarthMan. This is Dr. Diabolico and I have a lot of your friends here with me. They would love to talk to you, but they’re a little tied up right now!” Dr. D just laughed into the phone while the prisoners cried in the background!

EarthMan demanded that Dr. D let those prisoners go, but Dr. D just laughed even more!

“You listen to me!” said the evil doctor. “You have one hour to find and rescue your friends before it’s too late. Here’s wishing you bad luck!” and he hung up the phone.

Illustration 5-3



► Roger had been at the computer trying to trace the evil Dr.’s cell phone signal. Once he had a location, EarthMan jumped into the EarthMobile and sped off to rescue the townspeople. When EarthMan arrived, he nosed around until he found the secret entrance into Dr. Diabolico’s underground

lab. He called Roger to let him know that he had found the hideout and was going in. But while EarthMan was in the middle of trying to describe where the hideout was to Roger, Roger heard EarthMan say, "Uh-oh..." and then the phone went dead! Roger didn't know it, but the D-Men had jumped out of hiding and were getting ready to attack EarthMan!

You know, our enemy the devil wants to attack us, too! He is always out to get us! He hates us because we are God's children. He hides and waits for us to try and help someone else escape from sin and temptation, and then he attacks us! But we know something the devil doesn't seem to know: he is no match for the power of God that is ours through prayer!

Illustration 5-4



► Roger only knew of one thing to do. He knew that he had to pray for EarthMan and for all the innocent people who were being held hostage by Dr. D—and that's what he did! Since he didn't know exactly what was going on, the first thing Roger did was to pray for EarthMan's safety and protection.

"Lord, please protect EarthMan and keep him safe. Let your angels surround him and fight for him!" prayed Roger.

The D-Men attacked poor EarthMan from every side. But something very strange was happening. The D-Men started having trouble seeing, and they began fighting against each other while EarthMan just stood in amazement and watched. They were falling all over one another; pulling

hair, biting, kicking, you name it! It was kind of funny to watch, but EarthMan decided that he had more important things to do. So he left them and went on to find the townspeople.

Illustration 5-5



► EarthMan discovered the room where Dr. D had all the townspeople in chains. He tried everything he could to break those chains and set the people free, but nothing seemed to be working. The chains were much too strong.

The chains of sin and temptation are really strong, too. It would be impossible for us to break those chains on our own, no matter how strong we are or how much we want to. Thankfully though, we don't have to try and do it alone. We have help, and so did EarthMan. Roger had already begun praying for the townspeople.

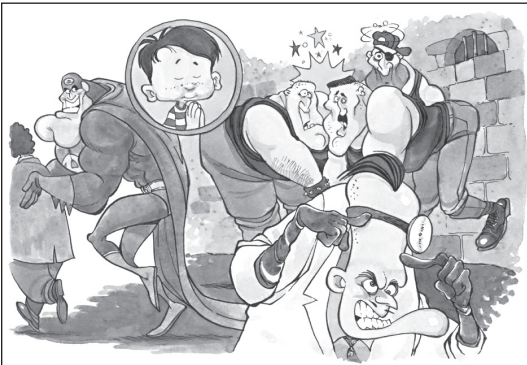
► "Lord, those are Your people! You created them. Dr. D has no right to hold them hostage. Please keep them safe and set them free, in Jesus' mighty and powerful name I ask and believe!"

Illustration 5-6



- After struggling to the point of exhaustion, EarthMan dropped his hands and his head, sad that he couldn't help the people get free. And then it just happened. The chains just began to fall off and hit the floor, one at a time! You should have seen the looks on everyone's faces! Of course, everyone thought that it was because of all the work that EarthMan had done to "loosen them up."

Illustration 5-7



- Dr. Diabolico was furious! He finally gathered up his bumbling crew of D-Men and went after EarthMan and the townspeople.

"Don't let them leave this place!" barked Dr. D as he and the D-Men attacked!

But Roger was still praying: "Lord, lead EarthMan and those people safely out of that place and rescue them from the evil Dr. Diabolico!"

The scene became so confusing that Dr. D and his D-men were running in every possible direction, bumping into each other and everything (except, of course, EarthMan and the townspeople)! As a matter of fact, EarthMan was able to lead all the townspeople out safely without Dr. D and his D-Men even noticing.

Illustration 5-8



- Later that afternoon, EarthMan was being awarded a special medal of honor for bravely rescuing all of the townspeople. But Roger knew the real story. He knew that without prayer, those townspeople and EarthMan would still be in big trouble.

Wow! Isn't God awesome! If God can use a normal kid like Roger to defeat bad guys and rescue people from chains—through the power of prayer—He can certainly use you to do the same thing! Your prayers do make a difference!

Closing Prayer

Father, we are very thankful that we can pray and ask You to help us so that we say no to sin when we are tempted. Help us to remember that saying no to sin and choosing to do what is right makes us very powerful in You. And when we pray what is in the Bible, we are much stronger than Satan. We can stop him from trying to hurt us, and others, when we pray to You. We ask that You will show us how to pray and what to pray, in Jesus name. Amen.

Small Group Lesson

Using the *God Encounters Small Group Lessons* (see page 10 in this *Leader's Manual*), divide your children into one of three elementary-age groups: ages 6-7, ages 8-10, ages 11-12. These groups allow deeper exploration of the Power Point and life application.

Instruct small group leaders to hand out this week's Take-Home Challenge. Be sure to ask for testimonials next week from the kids who completed the Take-Home Challenges.

Bible Lesson Skit

Giant-killing Faith—1 Samuel 17:1-54

Narrator: Young David was still living at home in Bethlehem, with his father, Jesse. David's three oldest brothers—Eliab, Abinadab and Shammah—were soldiers in Israel's army. Israel's soldiers were stationed on one hillside and the Philistine soldiers were stationed on another, with a valley in between them. Goliath, a Philistine champion, walked down into the valley to challenge Israel. Goliath was nine feet tall—his helmet and coat of armor weighed 125 pounds! His armor bearer walked in front of him carrying a huge shield.

Goliath: Let's settle this man to man! Choose someone to fight for Israel, and I will fight for the Philistines. If I kill your man, your soldiers will become our slaves. But if your man kills me, our soldiers will become your slaves.

Narrator: When King Saul and the Israelite soldiers saw Goliath and heard his threats, they were terrified! This happened twice a day for 40 days!

Goliath: I've been waiting for more than a month! You say you serve the living God! Then why don't you and your God dare to fight me!

Narrator: Back in Bethlehem, Jesse decided to send David to the battlefield with some food for his brothers. Jesse also wanted a report from David on how his brothers were doing. David arrived at the Israelite soldiers camp just in time to hear Goliath's challenge.

Goliath: Is there not one man in Israel who will fight Goliath?

Narrator: When David saw Goliath and heard his threats, he spoke to some of the soldiers.

David: Who is this wicked Philistine that is allowed to defy the people of God? And what will a man receive for stopping him?

Soldier: If someone will defeat Goliath, King Saul will give him one of his daughters in marriage, and his whole family will no longer have to pay taxes.

Narrator: When Eliab, David's oldest brother, heard David talking to the soldiers, he was angry.

Eliab: What are you doing here? Who is taking care of the sheep? You just came to see the battle!

David: What did I do wrong? I was only asking a question!

Narrator: When David saw that no one was willing to fight Goliath, he went to Saul.

David: Your worries are over, King Saul! I'll fight Goliath!

Saul: You? But you are only a boy!

David: But I am a shepherd boy who has killed both lions and bears to protect my father's sheep. The same God who saved me from the claws of wild beasts will save me from Goliath!

Narrator: Saul gave David his armor to wear, but David had never worn a helmet or a coat of mail before. So he took it off. Instead, he picked up five smooth stones from a stream and put them in his shepherd's bag. Then he picked up his sling and staff, and headed into the valley to face Goliath.

Goliath: Are you coming to fight me with a stick because you think I'm a dog? In the name of the god Dagon, I'll feed you to the wild animals!

David: You come to me with a sword and spear, but I come to you in the name of the Lord God Almighty! Today the Lord will conquer you! Everyone will see that God does not need weapons to save His people! The fight is His, not mine!

Narrator: Goliath moved close to attack, and David quickly placed a stone in his sling and began to spin it around his head. At just the right moment, he hurled the stone through the air.

Goliath: I've been hit—right in the forehead!

Narrator: The giant crashed to the ground! David had defeated him with only a sling and a stone... in the power of Almighty God.

David: Praise the Lord Almighty, who has delivered us from the enemy!