

part of a

5

year cycle

Youth Challenge Coursebook

youth  challenge

THE Christian SOLDIER

12 ready-to-use
lessons for teens, easily
split into 24 lessons



Perfect for teaching 11-15 year olds!
Adaptable for 16-18 year olds!



THE Christian SOLDIER



THE Christian SOLDIER

Manual originally prepared by Child Evangelism Fellowship® of Ireland

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Introduction



Helping teens become Christian Soldiers

The manual *The Christian Soldier* was produced by *Child Evangelism Fellowship of Europe*

for the Junior Youth Challenge ministry. It is part of a 5-year cycle and provides enough material for 12 to 24 sessions.

The lessons were written for the 11-15 year olds but can be adapted for an older age group. It can meet the needs of both saved and unsaved teens. Some lessons give a clear presentation of the Gospel, others help young Christians in their walk with God, but several are a combination of both.

Aiming at heads, hearts & hands

Clear objectives are given at the beginning of each lesson, focusing on three aspects:

 *knowledge*  *emotions*  *actions.*

It is vitally important to not only teach doctrine but also to apply it faithfully. Teens need to be encouraged to put the lessons into practice in their everyday life.

An additional objective is given  to indicate how the unsaved should respond to the teaching.

Using a variety of methods

Notes for the teachers are inserted in italics in the lesson text. They provide

a variety of methods that can facilitate the teens' involvement: case studies, role plays, sketches, interviews, workgroups, etc.

Some methods require a lot of time. It is recommended to divide the lessons into two parts in order to make full use of the methods.

LESSON BREAK

This break indicates where to split the lesson. If the teacher needs to cover the lesson in one go, he will have to select the ideas that will be the most useful to his group and leave the rest aside.

Preparing visuals & handouts

Visuals and handouts are supplied for all lessons. They are numbered and

gathered at the end of the manual. The lesson text indicates when to use them. Please note that they are protected by copyright and can be used only by the owner of the manual.

If visuals are to be used in a small group, they can be enlarged on paper or card. In a larger group, it is better to photocopy them on acetate and use an overhead projector.

The teacher may also use the PowerPoint® files made available on the CD.

Some visuals should not be revealed all at once. The teacher can position covers and remove them progressively as he teaches the lesson. It helps keep the teens' attention. The "summary visual" should be used to recap previous lessons and explain the progression. Again it is

better to reveal it one section at a time.

The handouts should be photocopied and given out to the teens. They include some creative ideas: wordsearches, crosswords, charts, questions, etc. Teens can fill them in during the programme or later at home. It will help them review the lessons and memorise the main points.



Adding colour with the CD

The CD contains:

• All the visuals, in black and

white and colour, in Adobe® Acrobat® PDF and Microsoft® PowerPoint® format.

• All the handouts, in black and white and colour, in Adobe Acrobat PDF format.

For US teachers, visuals and handouts in US letter format (8½ x 11 inches) have been added to the CD.

If the CD is damaged when purchased, the CEF European Centre can indicate how to get a new one. CEF has made sure that these files are virus free. Only the owner of this material has the right to use the files.

We trust this material will be a blessing to many teachers and teens.

Spiritual Warfare

Objectives: We would like the teens:

-  to understand that an invisible battle is going on between God and Satan.
-  to realise that God and His army of angels are much stronger than the enemy.
-  to give honour to the almighty God and count on His protection.
-  to ask God to deliver them from Satan's stronghold.

Introduction: The worms



Prepare visual 1 by covering the text in the two speech bubbles. As you begin the lesson, show the visual to the teens and have them guess what these worms are talking about. Then uncover the speech bubbles and read them.

In some way we are like these worms! We have a limited perception of the reality we live in. There are things happening in the spiritual realm that we cannot see. The Bible reveals to us that a spiritual warfare is taking place between God and His enemy Satan. Today we will examine what Scripture teaches about God and Satan and about the invisible battle between them.

God

Photocopy visual 2 on coloured paper, cut the arrows out and have them appear progressively on a board.

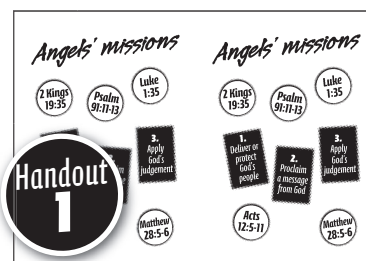


God is the Creator of Heaven and Earth. His existence has neither beginning nor end. He is the eternal and all-powerful God (Psalm 145:13). There is no-one in Heaven or Earth that can be compared to Him.

God created angels. They are numerous and powerful. The Bible mentions them about 300 times. They are under God's command and are sent by Him to minister to Christians (Hebrews 1:14). God has an army He can mobilise to rescue His people. This is what He did when the Syrians attacked Elisha. God opened Elisha's servant's eyes so that he could see the horses and chariots of fire of the Lord (2 Kings 6:8-23; Psalm 68:17).

This mighty God deserves all the honour and glory. He wants you to love Him with all your heart, soul, mind and strength (Mark 12:30). He should have the very first place in your life.

Method: Angels' missions



Divide the teens into groups of three or four. Give them handout 1. They will have to read

the references and link them to the three main tasks angels accomplish.



HANDOUT 1 ANSWERS

Angels' Missions

1. Deliver or protect God's people:
Acts 12:5-11; Psalm 91:11-13
2. Proclaim a message from God:
Luke 1:35; Matthew 28:5-6
3. Apply God's judgement:
2 Kings 19:35

John Paton

John G. Paton, pioneer missionary in the New Hebrides Islands, told a thrilling story involving the protective care of angels. Hostile natives surrounded his mission headquarters one night, intent on burning the Patons out and killing them. John Paton and his wife prayed all through that terror-filled night that God would deliver them. When daylight came they were amazed to see that, unaccountably, the attackers had left. They thanked God for delivering them.

A year later, the chief of the tribe was converted to Jesus Christ. Mr. Paton, remembering what had happened, asked the chief what had kept him and his men from burning down the house and killing them. The chief replied in surprise, "Who were all those men you had with you there?" The missionary answered, "There were no men there; just my wife and I." The chief argued that they had seen many men standing guard – hundreds of big men in shining garments, with drawn swords in their hands. They seemed to circle the mission station so that the natives were afraid to attack. Only then did Mr. Paton realise that God had sent His angels to protect them. The chief agreed that there was no other explanation.

LESSON BREAK**Satan**

There are two great dangers when we come to look at God's enemy, Satan:

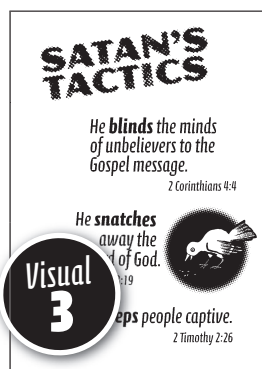
- ♦ **Thinking too much about Satan and his power.** Some people think about Satan continually and are keenly interested in Satan's power. Many are involved in the occult, e.g. palm reading, ouija boards, reading horoscopes and fantasy role-playing games. All these things can lead deeper into a fascination with the occult and Satan. This is very dangerous. Satan and the occult will take us in the opposite direction from God. It is very important to realise that it is not only those involved in these activities who are tempted by the devil. Everyone is. Satan also uses many other ways to attack us as we shall discover. Beware!
- ♦ **Doubting his existence.** The other extreme is to doubt Satan's existence or see him as some sort of cartoon character with a forked tail, a trident and horns. This makes Satan into some kind of a joke in many people's minds. This in turn leads them to doubt his existence as a real person with evil power. Satan does exist and he is alive and active in this world. *[It is not helpful to have one of these cartoon figures as an illustration as that is what the young people will remember as you talk about Satan.]*

The devil was originally an angel created by God. This angel lived in Heaven but became proud and desired to take over God's throne. He was evicted from Heaven because of his sin and became God's enemy – Satan. In Isaiah 14:13-14 Satan's pride and ambition to take God's place are clearly shown. As we read this, notice how many times the phrase

"I will ..." occurs. God's response was to cast Satan and the angels who followed him from Heaven (Jude 6).

Satan's names reveal his character. Tempter, liar and murderer are three of the ways the Bible describes him. He is not to be trusted. Do not be fooled by what seems attractive. Later you will discover other names and characteristics of Satan [*game at the end of the lesson*]. Remember that he is not all-powerful and all-knowing like God.

Satan's overall plan is to take God's place in all our lives. With an army of evil



spirits and powers he seeks to control us (Ephesians 6:12). Satan and these wicked powers do exist. They are real and are working to a plan to rob God of His glory and control

us. Here are some of the tactics Satan uses: [*Show visual 3 progressively.*]

He blinds the minds of unbelievers to the Gospel message: 2 Corinthians 4:4

Satan does not want people to be saved, so he will do everything in his power to stop people understanding the Gospel. He keeps people interested in other things which are not important, so that they do not consider the Gospel important. Even when people show an interest in the Gospel he tries to hinder their understanding of God and His Gospel. He wants to keep people in darkness rather than seeing the light of the Gospel and being saved. If you are not yet a Christian, be warned that this is what Satan is doing in your life.

He snatches away the Word of God: Matthew 13:19

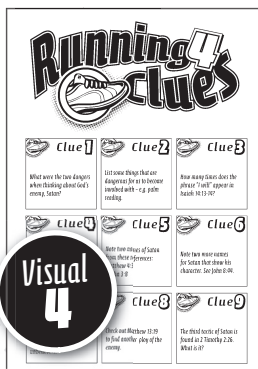
When someone hears the Word of God but does not understand, Satan moves in and attempts to make matters worse by trying to snatch away the Word of God. The Word of God is like a seed. When a seed is planted it eventually grows into something. Satan does not want the seed of the Word of God to grow and eventually bring about your conversion, so he tries to take away what you have heard. Satan wants you to forget all about it. Do not let him be successful. Instead let your understanding of the Gospel grow and then come to Christ for salvation.

He keeps people captive: 2 Timothy 2:26

Satan has people bound and makes them do what displeases God. One of his most successful ways of doing this is to suggest to them that they have plenty of time. Maybe you do understand the Gospel and want to be saved. But Satan whispers inside you, "Yes, that is a good thing to do but later on in your life. Live for pleasure and a good time first, then sort this out later." In this way he will trap you and as you get older it will be harder to break away from sin and Satan. The lesson is obvious. Come to Jesus now (2 Corinthians 6:2). Do not follow the enemy and become his captive. Come to Jesus while you are still young and be free to live for and please God.

Method: Running for clues

Divide the teens into groups of three. Enlarge visual 4 and cut the cards. Position them around the walls although not in the correct order. Give each group an answer sheet [handout 2], a pen and a Bible. Start them at 30 second intervals. Keep a note of the time for each group and award extra points for the fastest.



Conclusion

Think again about the two worms on our first visual. They have no perception of what is going on in the world above them. By looking at God and at Satan in our lesson today, we have seen clearly that in the spiritual realm warfare is taking place. While we may not see it, it is very real all the same. The apostle Paul wrote about this warfare in his letter to the Ephesians. He wants his readers to be aware of this battle, and to realise that it affects them (Ephesians 6:11-12).

As we continue our studies over the coming weeks, we will be looking closely at Paul's letter to the Ephesians and learning more lessons about this spiritual warfare. But for now, we need to remember that this spiritual battle involves us. We need to be aware of Satan's tactics so that we are not fooled by them. But we also need to remember that while Satan is powerful, God is all-powerful. To be on His side is to be on the winning side. God loves you and wants what is best for you. Make sure He has first place in your life. ●

HANDOUT 2 ANSWERS

1. Thinking too much about his power; doubting his existence.
2. Horoscopes; ouija boards; fantasy role-playing games.
3. Five.
4. God cast him and his angels from Heaven.
5. Tempter; devil.
6. Liar; murderer.
7. He blinds the minds of unbelievers.
8. He snatches away what was sown.
9. He takes them captive.

The Enemy's Strategy

Objectives: We would like the teens:

-  to understand that Satan makes sin attractive and hides its tragic consequences.
-  to realise that the Lord Jesus defeated Satan on the cross.
-  to count on God's power to have victory over sin.
-  to ask the Lord to forgive their sins.

Introduction: A deceitful gift

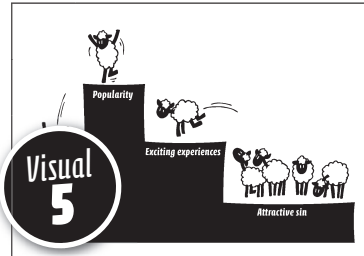
Find something disgusting like a rotten banana or a dirty sock or an old tooth brush. Wrap it up as nicely as possible. At the beginning of the lesson, offer this attractive gift to a teen: "Something very special! Everyone will envy you! Come on, open it!" Under the beautiful wrapping, he or she will find a repulsive object.

Our last lesson helped us realise that a spiritual battle is going on between God and the enemy. Today we want to think more about Satan's strategy. What he offers you may seem very attractive at first sight. *[Show visual 5. Put covers over the texts and remove them at the appropriate times as you progress through the lesson.]*

What Satan offers

Attractive sin

Satan offers you sin. Sin is breaking God's law (1 John 3:4). In His Word, God has given us a standard to live by, and when we fall short that is sin (Romans 3:23). Sin is anything that is against God (Psalm 51:4).



Sin is very serious and you must realise that what Satan offers is really sin. Satan

will not use the word sin but that is what it is. He will not tell you how serious sin is. He will wrap his gift beautifully with the following things:

Exciting experiences

Satan will suggest to you in your mind that Christianity is boring and that you should have a good time instead. He wants you to try different things that he portrays as glamorous. What does Satan offer to fool you into thinking you are having a good time? Alcohol, bad videos, drugs, smoking and sex (which outside of marriage is wrong). *[Only cover those subjects which are relevant to their age and culture. Add in any others which are applicable.]* These things will take you away from God. Satan will make them seem attractive and enjoyable and they may prove to be. But they are sin. Do not be fooled.

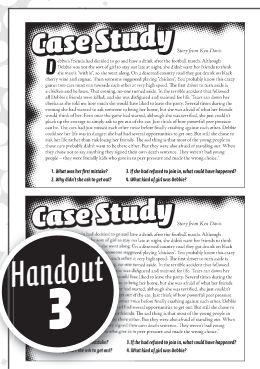
Popularity

Satan will suggest to you that one of the most important things in life is to be popular. Television adverts and programmes often depict people as being happy when they are surrounded by others laughing and chatting while holding glasses of alcohol. The wild party, the disco and the nightclub are shown as exciting and good fun. If you want to be "in" with the crowd or popular

you must go to these places, or so it seems. You do not want to be left out and so the temptation to be popular forces all right thinking to one side. Do not give in.

Satan offers a good time and popularity but we must realise that what he really offers is sin. You need to see that these offers are not as good as they seem. We need to expose these things that Satan offers by looking at what Satan hides.

Method : Case study



Give handout 3 to all the teens. Read Debbie's story and let the teens answer the questions. They will see the danger of drifting away because of peer pressure and because of the desire to experiment with new things. The text for handout 3 is below.

"Debbie's friends had decided to go and have a drink after the football match. Although Debbie was not the sort of girl to stay out late at night, she didn't want her friends to think she wasn't "with it", so she went along. On a deserted country road they got drunk on black cherry wine and cognac. Then someone suggested playing "chicken". You probably know this crazy game: two cars must run towards each other at very high speed. The first driver to turn aside is a chicken and he loses. That evening, no-one turned aside. In the terrible accident that followed all Debbie's friends were killed, and she was disfigured and maimed for life. Tears ran down her cheeks as she told me how much she would have liked to leave the party. Several times during the evening she had wanted to ask

someone to bring her home, but she was afraid of what her friends would think of her. Even once the game had started, although she was terrified, she just couldn't pluck up the courage to simply ask to get out of the car. Just think of how powerful peer pressure can be. The cars had just missed each other twice before finally crashing against each other. Debbie could see her life was in danger; she had had several opportunities to get out. But still she chose to risk her life rather than risk losing her friends. The sad thing is that most of the young people in those cars probably didn't want to be there either. But they were also afraid of standing out. When they chose not to say anything they signed their own death sentence. They weren't bad young people – they were friendly kids who gave in to peer pressure and made the wrong choice."

(Story from Ken Davis)

Questions:

1. What was her first mistake?
2. Why didn't she ask to get out?
3. If she had refused to join in, what could have happened?
4. What kind of girl was Debbie?

LESSON BREAK

What Satan hides

Satan doesn't tell you where he is taking you. He is a liar as clearly stated in John 8:44. He lies about the seriousness of sin. He did this with Eve (Genesis 3:4). He questioned God's Word and then denied God's Word. He offers what seems to be a good time but hides the effect of sin. Sin even affects our health. [Refer briefly to the dangers of smoking, alcohol, drugs and wrongful sex – use appropriate examples.]

He offers popularity but think of what happened to the prodigal son in Luke 15:13-14. When his money was finished there is no record of his friends helping him when he was in need.

Satan lies about all these things in order to fool you into following him and rejecting God. God is totally trustworthy. He tells the truth about sin. He offers a challenging and exciting life which is much more meaningful than “a good time”. God does not offer popularity but real Christian friends and especially a perfect friend in Jesus. God is truth. Satan is a liar.

In the short-term sin brings guilt. When we sin our conscience operates and we feel guilty. We feel guilty because we are guilty before God’s law. Sin also leaves us feeling empty. At the time sin seems enjoyable but the “good time” promised does not satisfy. We are left searching for more satisfaction, which leads to more sin, which leads to more guilt, which leads to more searching. Only the Lord Jesus can break this “circle of sin”. *[It would be helpful to have these four words (sin – guilt – emptiness – searching) in a circle with arrows on card or acetate.]*

Will you ask the Lord Jesus to forgive you for your sin? You would then have your sin dealt with by the only One Who can. Your broken relationship with God will be mended and you will have something worthwhile to live for.

If you do not have the Lord Jesus Christ as your Saviour then you will have to face the long-term results of sin. That is judgement then eternal separation from God. This is one of the things that Satan hides when he offers you sin, a good time and popularity. The short-term pleasures of sin are not worth the long-term consequences of sin.

Satan's defeat



The Lord Jesus is all-powerful and has defeated Satan. *[Show visual 6.]* In a chess game,

a player may lose all his main pieces. He is defeated even though the game is not totally over. He can still fight but the outcome of the game is inevitable. It is only a matter of time. In the same way, Satan was defeated. He is still strong and active but his days are counted and the outcome is clear. What we are seeing now is Satan’s last desperate struggle before his final humiliation. Let us look up some verses describing the fight between Satan and the Lord Jesus.

Method: Sword drill

Ask the teens to “draw their sword” (hold their Bible up high). Give a Bible reference – e.g. “1 John 3:8”. Have them repeat it. Then command, “Attack!” and they compete to find the verse as quickly as possible. The first teen to find it stands up. Give a few moments for others to find it, and then ask the winner to read the verse aloud.

1 John 3:8 – Jesus came to Earth to destroy the works of the devil.

Matthew 2:16 – Through Herod, Satan tried to destroy Jesus at birth, but Jesus was protected.

Mark 1:13 – Jesus was tempted in the wilderness and was victorious.

Hebrews 4:15 – Throughout Jesus’ perfect life He defeated Satan by not sinning.

Colossians 2:15 – On the cross Jesus disarmed principalities and powers.

Hebrews 2:14 – Through His death Jesus destroyed the devil.

1 Peter 5:8 – The devil still walks about like a roaring lion.

Revelation 20:10 – The devil will be cast into the lake of fire where he will be tormented for ever.

The greatest blow to Satan was at the cross and the tomb. When Jesus died and gave His precious blood and then arose from the dead, sin, death and Satan were all defeated. Jesus is all-powerful and He proved it at Calvary and the empty tomb.

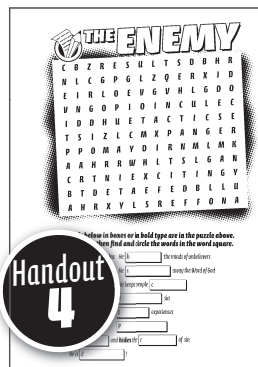
This same power is available to save you and help break the grip that sin and Satan have over your life. This same power is available in the life of the young believer (Romans 8:11). This means that you can be victorious over temptation and over all that Satan would use to trip you up as a Christian. The enemy will attack believers. Do not run away in defeat, instead God wants you to resist the devil (James 4:7). Always remember that Satan has limited power and that it is he, not the Christian, who is defeated.

Conclusion

See through what God's enemy Satan offers! It is really nothing. Remember that he is a liar, he hides the results of sin, but he is defeated!

Instead of following Satan, come to the Lord Jesus Christ Who has defeated His enemy Satan. The Lord Jesus offers so much that is good – forgiveness of sin, a life worth living and eternity in Heaven. He is totally trustworthy so why not trust Him today?

Method: Wordsearch

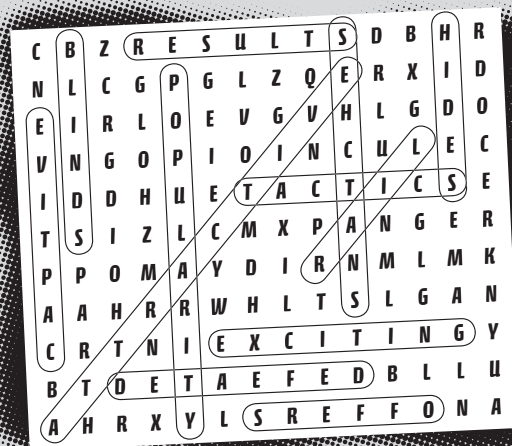


Photocopy handout 4 for all the teens. They could fill it in during the programme or later at home. It will help them review the lesson and memorise the main points. ●



HANDOUT 4 ANSWERS

Fill in the blanks:
blinds;
snatches;
captive;
attractive;
exciting;
popularity;
liar; results;
defeated.



Joining the Army

Objectives: We would like the teens:

-  to understand Who the Lord Jesus is and what He has done for them.
-  to realise that He is the supreme Commander of the Christian army.
-  to remain close to the Lord and obey Him.
-  to join the army through repentance and faith.

Introduction: Flag quiz

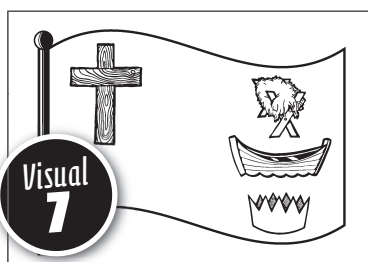


On the CD provided with this manual, you will find several country flags. You can print them on paper. As you introduce this lesson, show them to the group, one flag after another. Whoever guesses what country a flag represents gets the flag. The winner is the one who has collected the most.

Flags have meanings: the stars on the American one represent the states, the two colours blue and yellow on the Ukrainian one represent sky and wheat, etc. In a war situation, flags are often used. After joining the army, soldiers fight under their country flag. In the spiritual battle, we need to join the Lord's army and fight "under His flag".

The Commander

The Commander is the Lord Jesus Christ,



so let us focus on Him and what He has done. [As you cover this part, you can either

use the flag on visual 7 or use the method "Make a flag" explained further down.]

His birth

The Lord Jesus is God the Son. He became a baby in Bethlehem and was willing to do this so that He might be the Saviour of the world (Matthew 1:21). Before His birth He lived in Heaven so the word "incarnation" is more accurate.

His life

He went about doing good (Acts 10:38). He committed no sin (1 Peter 2:22). He showed us what God is like (John 14:9b). His life is an example to us as Christians.

His death

He took the punishment for sin on the cross by becoming our substitute (1 Peter 2:24). He willingly gave His life on the cross of Calvary so that you could be forgiven. What have you done in response?

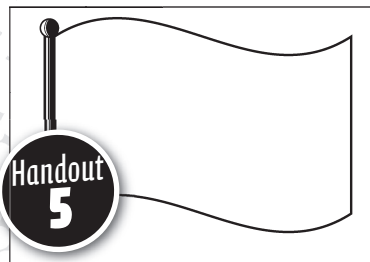
His resurrection

The Lord Jesus Christ is alive today (Matthew 28:6). He alone has the power to forgive sin (Mark 2:5). He is exalted above all. One day every knee will bow to Him (Philippians 2:10-11).

Do you realise that you need to have the Lord Jesus Christ as Commander of your life? You need Him to set you free from the power of Satan, who wants to destroy your life. Satan will seek to lead you further and further away from God, and when your life

ends you will be separated from God for all eternity. But it does not have to be that way. You can have the Lord Jesus as your Commander and fight “under His flag”.

Method: Make a flag



Divide the teens into groups of four or five. Give each group a flag (handout 5), various symbols

(handout 6), some glue and scissors. Ask them to think about what symbols would be suitable on the “Lord’s Flag”. They can select



some and glue them on the flag. When the flags are ready ask each group to present theirs and explain what the symbols tell us about the Lord Jesus. Allow them to draw some other symbols or write some

text if they want to. This method will encourage the teens to reflect on Who Christ is and what He has done.

LESSON BREAK

How to join God’s army?

By admitting my sin:

Romans 3:23, Isaiah 59:2



[Show visual 8.]

This means to be humble and acknowledge to God that we are born sinners who

do sinful things, and that our sin separates

us from God. Are you willing to admit this and confess your sin to God? You will never have your problem of sin dealt with until you admit you have a problem.

By repenting: Acts 3:19

This involves turning away from the sinful things in our lives – saying goodbye to sin. It is a change of mind about our sin, a change of attitude to our sin, but most of all a change of direction from our sin. Are you willing to repent?

By placing my faith in the Lord Jesus Christ: Acts 16:31

There is only one way for you to have your sin forgiven. The Lord Jesus Christ is the only One Who can forgive. Your good works, family background, church attendance – none of these are enough to save you. Jesus has borne your sin in His own body and paid the price for it. You must therefore ask the Lord Jesus to forgive you, trust in Him to save you and give your whole life over to Him. Are you willing to trust in Christ?

What is involved in being a soldier for God?

Close relationship

It is the start of a life of personal relationship with the Commander, the Lord Jesus Christ (2 Peter 3:18). You grow in your faith by getting to know the Lord through reading His Word and talking to Him in prayer. This is called a “Quiet Time”. You should always want to get to know God better. You should want to live your life close to Him. It is a privilege to know the Commander in such a personal way.

Submission

If you join the army, you should also obey the Commander's orders (1 John 2:3). He has the right to expect your loyalty and obedience at all times. Do whatever He tells you (John 15:14). For example, He will send you to share the Gospel with your friends at school and others who need to hear it. In our next meetings we will discover other missions Jesus entrusts His soldiers with. Serving "under the Lord's flag" is not always easy. You must learn to trust Him and believe that His will is the best for your life. You can count on His presence and continued help.

Method: Testimony

Invite a Christian who communicates with teens well and ask him to share his testimony in front of the group. You could give him in advance a list of things you would like him to cover, e.g.

- *What is his family background?*
- *When did he hear about the Lord?*
- *How did he respond?*
- *What changes took place in his life?*
- *What relationship does he have with the Lord?*
- *What challenges does he face in his spiritual life?*

Are you in God's army?

Under which flag are you fighting? Are you in God's army? There are no upper age limits, but it is best to give your life to the Lord when young. There are no barriers to the sick, disabled or the very healthy. Illiterate and well-educated alike can join. There are people from every tribe and nation in God's army. But the most important question for you as an individual to ask is,

"Am I in God's army?" You can only answer that for yourself. The answer is either "yes" or "no". The question "How can I join God's army?" has already been dealt with. You know what you have to do – admit your sin, turn from it and trust in the Lord Jesus to save you. I invite you to do that now. If you cry out to the Lord for salvation then you will be able to say, "Yes, I am in God's army and I am going to live for Him."

Method: Alphabet quiz

Divide the young people into two teams. When you call a letter, the first person to bring you an object beginning with that letter (e.g. C – a coin; P – a pencil; W – a watch) earns the right to answer the question beginning with that letter. A correct answer earns ten points. Call the letters at random. If no object can be found, ask the questions to both teams and allow the first person who stands up to answer it. If wrong, the question passes to the other team. Alternately, you can just ask the questions without the additional task of finding an object.

What "A" must we do about sin before we can be saved? (Admit.)

What "B" is where Jesus was born? (Bethlehem.)

What "C" is Jesus in the Christian army? (Commander.)

What "D" did Jesus let happen so that there could be forgiveness for sin? (Death.)

What "E" is Jesus' life for us? (Example.)

What "F" is there for sin if we only ask Jesus? (Forgiveness.)

What "G" is the One in Whose army we should be? (God's.)

What "H" do we have to be before God? (Humble.)

What "I" describes Jesus coming into the world as a baby? (Incarnation.)

What "J" is the only One Who can save? (Jesus.)

What "L" is Jesus often referred to as in the Bible? (Lord.)

What "M" is one of the books where we read of Jesus coming into the world? (Matthew.)

What "N" is the best time to be saved? (Now.)

What "O" does God expect from the Christian soldier? (Obedience.)

What "P" did Jesus take for our sin? (Punishment.)

What "Q" were there three of in the talk? (Questions.)

What "R" is vital to the Christian message and happened after the crucifixion? (Resurrection.)

What "S" does the enemy use to control us? (Sin.)

What "T" is the same as "have faith in"? (Trust.)

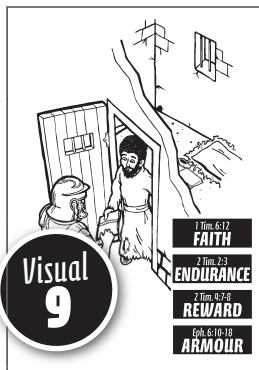
What "V" can those who are Christians be sure of? (Victory.) ●

Ready for Battle

Objectives: We would like the teens:

-  to understand that the Christian life is a difficult battle.
-  to realise that supreme help is available in this battle.
-  to persevere, trust the Lord and live a life that honours Him.
-  to become a Christian soldier.

Introduction: Explore the visual



Show visual 9 at the beginning of this lesson. Be sure to cover the four text boxes (they would be shown progressively throughout the lesson). Ask a few questions to help the teens reconstruct the historical set-up in

which Paul wrote some of his letters.

- Who do you think is represented on this visual?
- Where is he?
- Why is he in prison?
- What is he giving to the soldier?
- When did this happen during Paul's life?

Paul's conditions of detention varied. Sometimes they were far worse than the conditions suggested in this visual.

The soldier

The apostle Paul was guarded by Roman soldiers. He knew very well what a soldier was. When he wrote to a young man called

Timothy, he compared the Christian to a soldier. He wanted Timothy to realise that the Christian life is a difficult battle.

1 Timothy 6:12: Faith during the battle

Christians are like soldiers who should fight. We shouldn't fight with one another, but "fight the good fight" against Satan and his tactics. In this chapter Paul tells Timothy to resist false teaching (verses 3-5) and reject the love of money (verses 8-10). Timothy had to counteract dangerous influences as you also need to. Paul speaks about a "fight of faith". You must keep trusting your Commander. Remember that you are not fighting on your own. The Lord Jesus promised to be with you on the battlefield every day (Matthew 28:20).

2 Timothy 2:3: Endurance throughout the battle

In another letter, Paul reminds Timothy that Christians are engaged in a difficult battle. You must be ready for difficulties and suffering. A bad soldier would run away as soon as the enemy appeared. But a good soldier would remain faithful to his Commander and would keep going despite the hardship of battle. A Christian soldier needs endurance on the battlefield.

2 Timothy 4:7-8: Reward after the battle

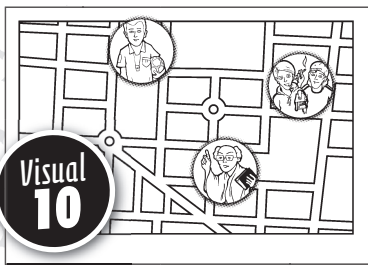
When Paul wrote his second letter to Timothy, he knew he would soon die and go into the presence of God. He considered his life, all the struggles he endured and knew that the Lord helped him through it all. Now

Paul could joyfully say, "I have fought the good fight." And he was certain that he would receive his reward: the crown of righteousness (verse 8). He was looking forward to entering God's glory and celebrating God's victory for eternity. This reward can be yours if you fight the good fight.

Ephesians 6:10-18: Armour for the battle

Paul was being held in captivity by soldiers, possibly even chained to one (Ephesians 6:20). He saw the soldier and his armour as a good description of how the Christian is to be prepared to enter the battlefield. How many pieces of armour are mentioned in the text? Are they defensive or offensive? God has provided this armour for you to be prepared for battle. Over the coming weeks we will be learning about the armour God has provided for the Christian.

The battlefield



[Show visual 10.] Christian life is not easy and in fact it can be compared to a battle.

In school you will face opposition if you stand up for Christ. You may be laughed at, isolated and perhaps persecuted. On the sports field you may be provoked by others to the point of losing your temper. They want to have a laugh at the Christian. Home is one of the most difficult places to live the Christian life for that is where people know us best. Other areas of the battlefield are church, youth organisations, when out with friends, when watching television. Everywhere you go is your battlefield.

Remember, the battle is the Lord's (2 Chronicles 20:15) and you are only in it because you are one of His people. You are not alone on the battlefield. The Commander is with you (Matthew 28:20), He is fighting for you and He is much stronger than the enemy. Remember what Paul said to Timothy: you must learn to depend on the Lord and persevere, knowing that He can give you victory.

LESSON BREAK

Method: Sketch



This method will help the teens to realise how Satan may attack them in various places, and to think about how to respond as Christian soldiers. Divide the teens into four groups and give each group a little

scenario – provided on handout 7. They will have to think about what a Christian should do in such a situation, prepare a sketch and play it in front of the whole group.

Group 1 – School: In class the teacher presents evolution as the best explanation to the origins of man. He even says, "Only some Christians refuse to admit this evidence. I hope no-one here is a creationist!" One Christian decides to speak up ...

Group 2 – Sports field: The team needs to win this last game of the season. But at half-time, they are two goals behind. The opposite team has a brilliant player who just seems impossible to stop. Some players suggest injuring him. It seems to them the only way! But a Christian disapproves ...

Group 3 – Home: Two brothers have been playing video games for two hours when Mum

comes back. "I hope you haven't played too long. If you had more than an hour, I want you to stop. OK?" One of them declares, "But Mum, we've just started!!" The other one is a Christian and reacts differently ...

Group 4 – Church: The Church service is over and young people are talking together outside. One says how boring the sermon was. Another one finds the songs old-fashioned. A third one tells a story he heard about one of the elders. But one teen realises that this attitude is not good and tries to encourage the others to stop ...

The soldier's mission

Fight the enemy

You have to fight the enemy. 1 Peter 5:8-9 speaks of the devil as the enemy and urges us to stand strong and resist him. Be warned! It is a real battle. You are fighting an enemy who is stronger than you are. But 1 John 4:4b encourages you with a great truth: Jesus, Who lives in the Christian, is greater than Satan. He supplies the power that helps you to be victorious in the battle. As you will discover, the Lord has provided us with armour which we can put on. We will examine the pieces of this armour, defensive and offensive, as we progress through Ephesians 6 in our next meetings.

Share your faith

The Christian life is a life of sharing your faith in Christ with others (Romans 10:9). You are saved, not only to have a relationship with Jesus, but to serve Him. Others are without the Saviour and are lost in their sin. God has commanded you to bring the Gospel to them. You should want to see everyone joining God's army. You can witness for Jesus by living a life pleasing to God. Then as opportunities come, share what Jesus has done in your life and tell

your friends how much they need the Lord too. You should look out for opportunities to serve the Lord with other Christians, e.g. outreach with your local church or a Christian organisation such as Child Evangelism Fellowship®.

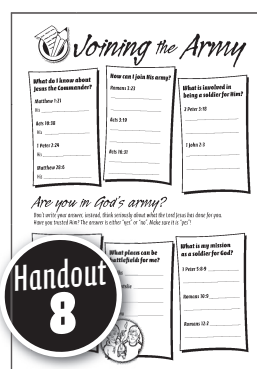
Be different

You have to live a life that is different to all those around you (Romans 12:2). The word "different" is one which should describe the believer's life in this world. You should be different in your attitudes, your conversations, your behaviour, your aims in life and even the way you make your decisions. Your life as a Christian should be noticed at home, at school and in your reactions. [Take time to enlarge on this as suits your young people – do not lower the standards.]

Conclusion

This is a high calling. Battling against the enemy, sharing your faith and being different are not easy. But remember the encouraging way it is made possible. In an amazing way you have a relationship with the Commander as He lives in you through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 3:16). Trust Him to help you everyday.

Method: Handout



Photocopy handout 8 for all the teens. They could fill it in during the programme or later at home. It will help them review this lesson and the previous one and memorise the main points. ●

HANDOUT 8 ANSWERS

What do I know about Jesus the Commander?

- Matthew 1:21: His Birth
- Acts 10:38: His life
- 1 Peter 2:24: His death
- Matthew 28:6: His resurrection

How can I join His army?

Romans 3:23: By admitting my sin • Acts 3:19: By repenting • Acts 16:31: By placing my faith in Christ

What is involved in being a soldier for Him?

- 2 Peter 3:18: A close relationship with Christ
- 1 John 2:3: Submit to His orders

What do I need as a Christian soldier?

- 1 Timothy 6:12: Faith during the battle
- 2 Timothy 2:3: Endurance throughout the battle
- 2 Timothy 4:7-8: Reward after the battle
- Ephesians 6:10-18: Armour for the battle

What places can be battlefields for me?

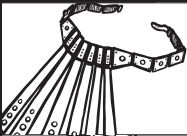
school; sports field; home; church

What is my mission as a soldier for God?

- 1 Peter 5:8-9: Fight the enemy
- Romans 10:9: Share your faith
- Romans 12:2: Be different

In the next several lessons we will be examining the different parts of the Armour of God. This chart summarizes the main truths and applications to give you an idea of what will be covered.

The Armour of God

	Satan attacks	God equips	I must fight
	Girdle of truth Satan influences me with false teaching	God gave me His true Word	I must believe the Bible and live according to it
	Breastplate of righteousness Satan accuses me whenever I sin	God covered me with Christ's righteousness	I must confess my sin and trust that I am safe in Christ
	Shoes of peace Satan tries to disturb my relationship with God	God reconciled me with Himself and filled me with peace	I must go and preach the Gospel of peace to others
	Shield of faith Satan makes me feel angry, afraid, self pity	God promised to be with me and to protect me	I must remember how great God is and rely on His promises
	Helmet of salvation Satan fills my mind with present concerns and desires	God will bring me to Heaven and set me free from sin	I must keep my mind focused on the final day of salvation
	Sword of the Spirit Satan prowls around me like a roaring lion	God gave me His inspired Word	I must memorise key verses, quote them and rely on them

The Girdle of Truth

Objectives: We would like the teens:

-  to understand that God's Word is the truth.
-  to realise that Satan is trying to influence them with false teaching.
-  to believe the Word, to live a truthful life and to be more and more like the Lord Jesus.
-  to read God's Word and find out how to be truly saved.

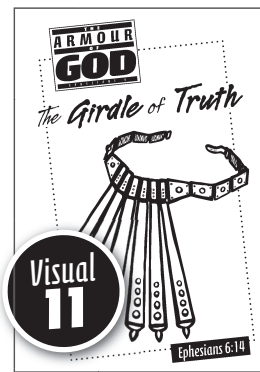
Introduction: Difficult or easy

Write "difficult" and "easy" in large letters on two posters. Put one poster up on the wall on one side of the room and the other poster up on the other side. Ask a question: "Is it easy or difficult to juggle with three balls?" All the teens will have to get up and decide where to stand according to the answer they want to give: close to "difficult" or close to "easy" or somewhere in between.

Continue with the following questions: "Is it easy or difficult to get up early in the morning to go to school? To eat five hamburgers in a row? ..." Then ask some questions connected to today's topic – the truth: "Is it easy or difficult to tell the truth when you are in trouble with your parents? To be a true Christian at school? To read God's true Word every day?"

We need truth in our lives. It is not easy to know the truth, to say the truth and to live truthfully. God wants to help us do so. In our last lesson, we found out in Ephesians 6 that God has provided armour Christians can put on for battle. Today we will start looking at the different parts of this armour.

The Roman soldier's girdle



[Show visual 11.] The first piece of armour is the girdle of truth (Ephesians 6:14).

The girdle was not simply a strip of cloth or a narrow belt. It was a leather apron that helped to protect the lower part of the

body. Also, when people wanted to move quickly they would gather their robes and tuck the ends into their girdle so that their legs would be unhindered by flowing robes as they hurried along. When a workman girded up his robes he was ready to work. When a soldier girded up his robes he was ready to fight.

The Christian's girdle of truth

You also need protection because Satan, the enemy, will attack you and try to influence you. Your mind and life need to be girded up, held together. You must be ready to fight. God provides "the girdle of truth" you can put on. What is the "girdle of truth"? God's Word is the truth. How can we put it on? You must receive the teaching from God's Word and let it transform your life. Psalm 51:6 tells us that God desires truth in every part of our lives. When your life is saturated by the truth of God then your thoughts, motives and actions will be governed by it. In other words your life should be controlled by the truth of God's Word. This is the meaning of the girdle of truth, but how

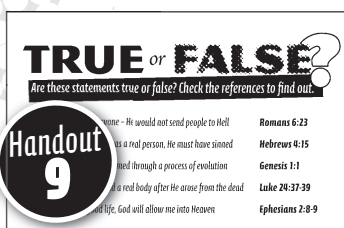


does it affect you as a Christian? Let us find out! Putting on the girdle of truth will affect your beliefs, your behaviour and even your whole being. [Cut out the four parts of visual 12.]

Believing the truth

[Show visual 12 – the girl looking at the signposts.] The girdle of truth will guard you against false teaching. In Ephesians 4:14 Paul tells believers that they should not be tossed about by all kinds of teaching. Instead, he wants them to be clear about what they believe. The only way to do this is to know and believe what the Bible teaches – to put on the girdle of truth. Christians who are unsure of what they believe are in real danger of being led astray by false teaching. An example of false teaching is “Jesus is not really God – just a good man.” Some people would argue this with sincerity but they are sincerely wrong. If you know the truth of God’s Word then you will not be fooled by wrong teaching.

Method: True or false



Divide the teens into groups of four or five teens. Give them the top part of handout 9. Are

these statements true or false? They will have to check the references to find out.

- God loves everyone – He would not send people to Hell – Romans 6:23: **False.**
- If the Lord Jesus was a real person, He must have sinned – Hebrews 4:15: **False.**

- This world was formed through a process of evolution – Genesis 1:1: **False.**
- The Lord Jesus had a real body after He arose from the dead – Luke 24:37-39: **True.**
- If I live a good life, God will allow me into Heaven – Ephesians 2:8-9: **False.**

How can a bank clerk learn to identify a false bank note? The best way is to know exactly what a real one is like, to know everything about it. The more you know the truth the better prepared you will be to identify false teaching.

LESSON BREAK

Living truthfully

[Show visual 12 – the girl looking at the masks.] The girdle of truth will help you not to be hypocritical. The word “hypocritical” literally means “to act” or “to wear a mask”. So many Christians today try to lead a double life, trying to have the best of both worlds by having God’s salvation and sinful pleasures at the same time. That is hypocritical and the opposite of being truthful.

Method: In Pairs

Ask the teens to talk with the person beside them. They will have to:

- Find two ways a Christian can be hypocritical in his life.
- Discuss how this may affect his witnessing to those who are not saved.

After a couple of minutes give teens the opportunity to share with the whole group.

Sinful pleasures are things like going to discos and other places which will harm you as a Christian; being dishonest with your friends; or being selfish with your

time, money or ambitions. Other things like sport or computers become sinful when they begin to take up so much time that they become more important to you than living for God. Christians should not have double standards. You cannot serve God one minute and Satan the next. You cannot tell the teacher in school a lie one minute and claim to be a Christian the next. This kind of living pulls your life apart instead of being held together by the girdle of truth. The only solution to this double life is to be totally devoted to the Lord.

Becoming like Jesus

[Show visual 12 – the girl looking at the footprints.] The Lord Jesus is our perfect example in everything, including this life of truth. He always spoke the truth, even when it was unpopular. The Lord Jesus lived to please God the Father and so must you. If you are going to stand your ground against Satan you must declare your allegiance to Christ and be truthful in all things. Be a person of truth before God and other people. Live out the truth and not a lie. But remember, not everyone will hold to the same high standard we are talking about here. There will be opposition to those who are truthful.

Method: Case study

Case Study

Handout 9

"I am on my way, Mum!" says Brian, 14, as he goes through the door.

"Where are you going, Brian?" his mother asks.

Brian's answer is well prepared like on every Saturday night.

"Don't worry Mum, I am going to the cinema with friends from church."

His mother trusts him as she usually does. But Brian heads for somewhere else. Every Saturday friends from school meet on the supermarket's parking lot near the river and they race with their mopeds. Brian doesn't have one yet but he loves watching the races. If you would ask him if he minds hiding from his mother what he is doing, he would say, "No, I think it is the best way! If I tell her, she might not let me go. Or, if she would let me go, she would worry all evening. For her sake and my sake, it is better. I am just watching the others race – nothing bad!"

1. Did Brian convince you that his lie is a good one? Explain why.

2. How might this story end up one day? Think about all the consequences.

3. Can you think of other situations in life in which we are tempted to lie?

4. If a Christian lies, how will this affect his testimony?

5. Why does God command us always to speak the truth?

6. If you struggle with lying, how could you put on the girdle of truth?

Give teens the bottom part of handout 9. Read the story of Brian's lie with them. Then discuss it using the questions. The text for handout 9 is:

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"Don't worry Mum, I am going to the cinema with friends from church."

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1. Did Brian convince you that his lie is a good one? Explain why.
2. How might this story end up one day? Think about all the consequences.
3. Can you think of other situations in life in which we are tempted to lie?
4. If a Christian lies, how will this affect his testimony?
5. Why does God command us always to speak the truth?
6. If you struggle with lying, how could you put on the girdle of truth?

If you have not been truthful with your parents then own up to telling lies and in future seek to be Christ-like. This is what God wants for you – He wants you to become more and more like Jesus (Romans 8:29). If a lie gets into the life of the believer everything begins to fall apart and brings dishonour to God's Name.

Conclusion

The girdle of truth is the truth of God taught in His Word. So use it to help you ...

- ✦ Believe the truth. It will guard you against false teaching.
- ✦ Live truthfully. It will help you not to be hypocritical.

- ✦ Become more like the Lord Jesus. He is your perfect example.

Use the girdle of truth to bring honour to God's Name by being young people who know the truth of God and live by it in every area of your lives. ●

The Breastplate of Righteousness

Objectives: We would like the teens:

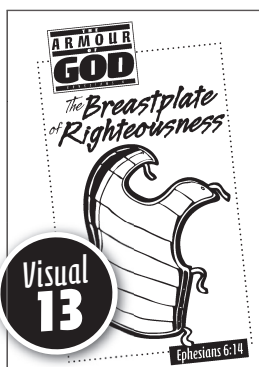
-  to understand that Jesus' righteousness is imputed to the believer.
-  to realise that this protection remains, even when the Christian sins and Satan accuses him.
-  to count on Christ's righteousness. If they sin, to confess it to God.
-  to stop relying on their own righteousness and to put their trust in Jesus.

Introduction: Protection needed

Ask for two volunteers to come up. Tell the first one that he will have to hit the other one in the stomach. Ask him if he is ready to do this and ask the other volunteer how he feels about this. But then bring out a piece of metal or wood, big enough to protect the stomach. The second volunteer can put this under his shirt to protect himself. Now who is going to get hurt?

What types of protective clothing do police wear in riot situations? A vital piece of equipment is the bullet-proof vest, which protects the upper part of the body. Because this part of the body contains vital organs like the heart and lungs, it is essential that it is well protected.

The Roman soldier's breastplate



[Show visual 13.] The Roman soldier needed similar protection. In ancient battles, when much of the fighting was done hand-to-hand, the soldier would need

his upper body well-protected. The piece of armour used for this purpose was called a "breastplate". It was a heavy brass plate which stretched from the neck down to the thighs. It was impossible to penetrate. The foot soldier entering battle was well protected against the swords, daggers and darts of the enemy.

As Paul continues his picture of the armour which God has given to the Christians, he speaks about the "breastplate of righteousness" (Ephesians 6:14).

Righteousness in Christ

To understand what the breastplate of righteousness is, we need to think back to what happens when a person is saved. We know we are all sinners and cannot meet God's standards. Only One could meet them: the perfect Lord Jesus. When He died on the Cross, He was punished for your sins, not His. When you put your trust in Him, your sins were totally forgiven.

The breastplate of righteousness refers to something wonderful that happened at that stage: Christ's righteousness was credited to your account. It is as if you were covered by Christ's righteousness. From that moment on, when God looked at you, He didn't see a sinner any more but the righteousness of His Son. He declared you righteous in Christ.

Now you need to understand that this righteousness was not put into you. You didn't become perfect when you trusted Christ. But the righteousness of Jesus was put to your account of sin (Romans 3:21-22). Jesus has taken the

punishment for your sin and paid your debt in full. The matter of your sin has been settled once and for all. You are declared righteous in Christ. When God looks at you, He sees the perfect goodness of the Lord Jesus Christ. It is this perfect goodness or “righteousness”, which Paul compares to the Roman soldier’s breastplate.

In His Word God gave you ten commandments to follow. Have we obeyed them? Suppose we got a mark for each one of them. What would the mark sheet look

School of the Law		Report Card
Pupil Name:		
	Subject	Grade
1.	Commandment 1	
2.	Commandment 2	
3.	Commandment 3	
4.	Commandment 4	
5.	Commandment 5	
6.	Commandment 6	
7.	Commandment 7	
8.	Commandment 8	
9.	Commandment 9	
10.	Commandment 10	
Teacher:		

like? [Make two copies of visual 14. On the first one write “me” for the pupil’s name. For the

class grades write “failed”, “often failed”, “OK”, “failed”, etc.] You cannot be accepted in God’s holy presence with such a mark sheet.

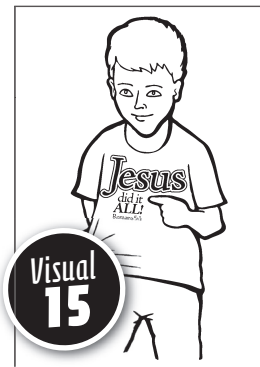
How do you think the Lord Jesus’ mark sheet is? [On the second copy of visual 14, write “Jesus Christ” for the pupil. For the class grades write “Perfect!”, “Perfect!”, “Perfect!”, etc.] What happened when you trusted Christ? He took your mark sheet – He paid for your sins on the cross. But He also gave you His mark sheet – His righteousness was put into your account. This is the exchange that takes place when we put our faith in Christ.

Satan’s accusations

Remember, Christ’s righteousness is not put into you – it is put to your account of sin. There will still be times in your life when you sin and let the Lord down. It is important to realise this, because very often Satan will attack you by reminding you of your sin. He may do this by causing

you to accuse yourself, or have your friends accuse you by saying, “If you were really a Christian, you would not have done that.” This is one of Satan’s favourite tactics. He wants to make you doubt your salvation, because he knows that you can never be

effective for God if you are in doubt about whether or not you are a Christian.



Using the breastplate

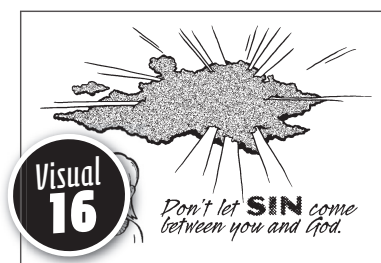
How can we be protected against attacks like this from

Satan? [Show visual 15.] Well, Paul says the righteousness of the Lord Jesus is the breastplate which can protect us. He is saying that when Satan tries to make us doubt our salvation we must remember that, because we have trusted Christ, God is never going to punish us for sin. Satan may remind us of our sin, so may other people. We may even remind ourselves of it. But when God looks on us, He does not see our sin. Instead He sees the perfect righteousness of the Lord Jesus (2 Corinthians 5:21).

If you have truly trusted in the Lord, you have no need to doubt that you are saved. When Satan tries to make you doubt, use the breastplate of righteousness. When he attacks you with wrong thoughts and you feel unworthy of the name “Christian”, you must look to Christ and His perfect goodness which has been put to your account. Remind Satan, and yourself, that all your sins are forgiven and that you are right with God through the Lord Jesus (Romans 5:1). Rely on the promises of God in His Word which can never be broken.

LESSON BREAK

Of course, if you are aware of sin in your life, then that sin must be dealt with. Your relationship with God is not broken, you don't lose your salvation, but the relationship is seriously affected. Your connection with God is disrupted. You might have difficulties reading God's Word. Your prayer-time won't be the same. You will probably lack peace. There may be other serious consequences. Confess your sin to God and turn away from it. When you do, He promises to forgive.



[Show visual 16.] During winter, a sunny day is so enjoyable. We can walk outside into

the sun's rays. But one cloud can spoil it all if it passes in front of the sun. It gets worse if several clouds are in the sky. It gets cold. The scenery is not as it was. The sun is still there but we can't enjoy it any more. In a similar way sin in our Christian life affects our relationship with God. Don't let anything come between you and Him. If you have disobeyed Him, pray and ask forgiveness right away. Be determined not to sin again. Then you will be able to fully enjoy your relationship with Him again.

Method: Chart to fill in

Breakplate of RIGHTEOUSNESS!			
Sin	Consequences	Confession	Restoration
David 2 Samuel 11:1-4, 14-15	2 Samuel 12:1-12	Psalms 51:1-4	2 Sam. 12:13-14, 18, 20-25
	Luke 22:61	Luke 22:62	John 21:15-17

research on David, the other group on Peter. They will have to fill in the chart and report later to the other group.

Divide the teens into two groups with one leader in each. Give them handout 10. One group will do the



HANDOUT 10 ANSWERS

Answers for David

• Sin, 2 Samuel 11:1-4, 14-15:

He did not go to battle
He watched a woman bathing
He committed adultery
He arranged Uriah's death

• Consequences, 2 Samuel 12:7-12:

God condemned him through Nathan, the prophet
Death and adversity would come from his own house

• Confession, Psalm 51:1-4:

He pled for mercy
He asked to be washed
He acknowledged his sins

• Restoration, 2 Samuel 12:13-14, 18, 24-25:

God put his sin away
His child died
Solomon was born

Answers for Peter

• Sin, Luke 22:54-60:

He denied Jesus three times

• Consequences, Luke 22:61:

Jesus looked at him
He remembered Jesus' words

• Confession, Luke 22:62:

He went out
He wept bitterly

• Restoration, John 21:15-17:

He was back to a close relationship with Jesus
He was told three times to feed Jesus' flock

As you grow in your Christian life, you will desire to be more and more like Jesus. While you will never be perfect until you reach Heaven, give God every part of your life and ask Him to help you show Christ's righteousness in all you say, in all your motives and in all you do.

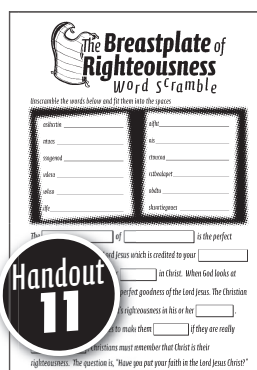
Have you put the breastplate on?

How wonderful to know that you will never be punished for your sin because the righteousness of the Lord Jesus has been put to your account (Romans 8:1). You are not depending on your own goodness – instead you are protected by the breastplate of righteousness, the perfect goodness of the Lord Jesus.

However, perhaps there is someone here who is not a Christian. Instead of depending on the perfect righteousness of the Lord Jesus, you are trusting in your own righteousness. You say, "But I'm all right, I try to be good. God will not punish me." But look what God's Word says about your own righteousness (Isaiah 64:6). In God's eyes all your attempts to be good are like filthy rags. God is holy and perfect. You can never reach His standard on your own (Romans 3:23). The great news is that although you have sinned and fallen short of God's standard, you can be forgiven. The Lord Jesus died to take the punishment for your sin (1 Peter 3:18). God raised Him from the dead, and He is alive today. If you will ask Him to forgive you for your sin,

then the "breastplate of righteousness" will become yours. The perfect goodness of the Lord Jesus will be put to your account of sin, and God will never hold your sin against you (Hebrews 8:12).

Make sure you have trusted in Christ and received the breastplate of His righteousness. If you continue trying to please God by your own efforts, then one day you will have to face Him as judge. You will have only your filthy rags to protect you from God's righteous anger at your sin. That will not be enough. Instead, trust in the Lord Jesus and put on the breastplate of righteousness today.



Method: Scrambled words

Photocopy handout 11 for all the teens. They could fill it in during the programme or later at home. It will help them review the lesson. ●



HANDOUT 11 ANSWERS

Unscramble the words: Christian; Satan; goodness; saved; show; life; faith; sin; account; breastplate; doubt; righteousness.

Fill in the blanks: breastplate; righteousness; goodness; account; sin; faith; Christian; show; life; Satan; doubt; saved.

The Shoes of the Gospel of Peace

Objectives: We would like the teens:

-  to understand the Gospel and how God reconciled man with Him.
-  to realise that man can be totally at peace with God.
-  to stand firmly on this Gospel of peace but also to go and preach it to others.
-  to accept God's offer of reconciliation and peace.

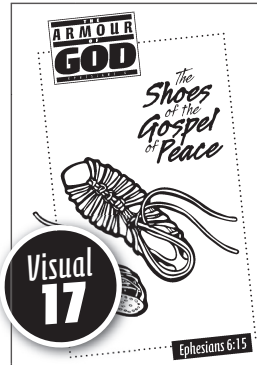
Introduction: Footwear competition

Divide the teens into two groups. Give each group a paper and a pencil. In one minute, they will have to write down as many kinds of footwear as possible (trainers, sandals, slippers, skates, ...). Then each team will choose a spokesman. There will be a kind of "ping pong" game between the two spokesmen. One after another they will name a kind of footwear. They can use only what is on their list. A kind of shoe can't be given twice. The team that runs out of names first, loses the game.

It is amazing to see how many different kinds of footwear there are! Each type of footwear is used in specific circumstances, e.g. wellingtons in the rain, trainers for aerobics, hiking boots for steep muddy hills ... As a Christian you need to have the proper footwear. The places where you walk can be very treacherous and you need good footwear so that you can stand firm in the battle and move around easily.

The Roman soldier's footwear

[Show visual 17.] The Roman soldier had excellent footwear for battle. He wore a



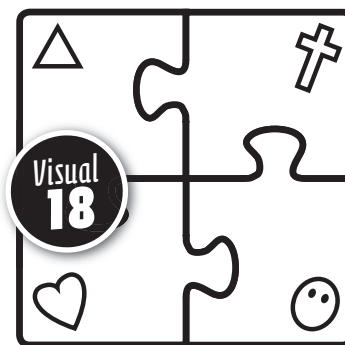
pair of sandals and the leather straps firmly held the sandals to his feet. On the sole there were several small studs to ensure that the soldier had a firm footing on the ground. The sandals were light

enough not to hold him back while he was running, but yet strong enough to protect his feet from hidden enemy spikes. They were designed to help the soldier keep on the move – if he stood in one place too long he could be killed!

What is the Christian's footwear?

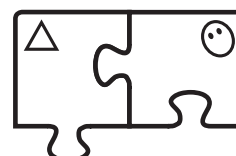
Ephesians 6:15 gives the answer – the shoes of the Gospel of peace. They provide help for the Christian to stand firm against the enemy in difficult circumstances and temptation.

The Gospel of peace

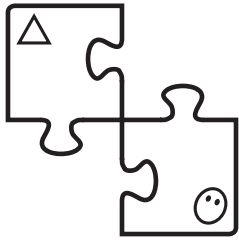


The word "Gospel" means "good news". The Gospel of peace is the good news of salvation God offers you through the

Lord Jesus Christ. [Enlarge visual 18. Cut out the pieces of the puzzle on visual 18 and put them up on a board progressively.]

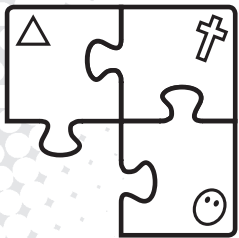


When God created men, they lived in perfect harmony.



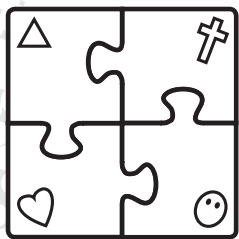
But this peaceful relationship was broken by Adam and Eve. They disobeyed their Creator. In His holiness God had to condemn

them and exclude them from His presence (Colossians 1:21). Sin was inevitably passed on to the generations that followed. All people are born sinners because Adam and Eve turned hostile to God. They either reject God or ignore Him.



God was not responsible for what happened. He so loved mankind that He provided a way through which this relationship could be

restored. He sent His Son the Lord Jesus Who came to Earth and died on the cross so our sins would no longer be an obstacle between Him and us (Colossians 1:19-22, 2 Corinthians 5:19). God's hand is now stretched out towards every person.



But the puzzle is not finished. To have peace with God, now you need to stretch out your hand towards Him. Be reconciled with God!

(2 Corinthians 5:20b). That means you need to admit that you have broken God's laws and accept what the Lord Jesus did for you on the cross. The relationship will not be re-established until you have done your part. You must accept God's offer and let Him fill you with His love and peace. Have you made peace with your Creator?

Method: The Gospel puzzle

This method could be used here or later in the part "Sharing the Gospel of peace". Photocopy

visual 18 for all the teens. Provide scissors so they can cut out the pieces of puzzle. Then make groups of two and encourage them to tell the Gospel puzzle's story to their friend. This method will help the teens review the Gospel message and prepare them to share it with others. It will be better accepted if you have a majority of Christian teens.

Standing on the Gospel of peace

If you have accepted the Gospel then, like a Roman soldier in his studded shoes, you must stand firmly upon it. You must not listen to or accept any other Gospel. Galatians 1:6-8 tells us that there is only one Gospel. Standing on the Gospel and relying fully on the way of salvation, Jesus gives stability in the Christian life and helps you not to slip into sin when tempted.

If you do stand firmly on the Gospel then you will know peace with God (Romans 5:1). We have peace with God because we know we will never be punished for our sin. We also have peace of heart, mind and conscience.

People can search for peace in many ways. It is not to be found in alcohol, drugs, wrongful sex, material possessions, academic achievements or sports. False religions offer easy peace through their rituals and good works. But none of these give true peace. True peace is only found in the Gospel. Only the Gospel deals with sin and guilt before a holy God.

The Christian soldier is in a battle but in it he/she knows the peace of God. However, we must be careful not to allow sin to get a foothold in our lives, because this will rob us of the peace God wants to give.

You know you are wearing the shoes of the Gospel of peace when you are standing firm

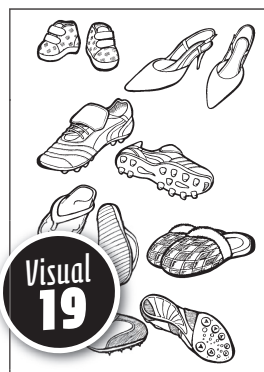
on the foundation of the Gospel and you have the peace of God reigning in your life.

LESSON BREAK

Sharing the Gospel of peace

Those who wear the shoes of the Gospel can not only stand firm in battle, but also move forward at the Commander's order. Having received the Gospel of peace, Christians should be ready to take it further. The Lord Jesus commands them to go and preach the Gospel to every creature (Mark 16:15).

As a Christian, you have been entrusted by God with the word of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:19). You have peace with God but how will your family members and friends experience it too? How will they believe in the Lord Jesus? They first need to hear. The Lord Jesus has equipped you and sent you to them. Romans 10:14-15 says that the feet of those who preach the Gospel of peace are beautiful. Do you want to have beautiful feet?

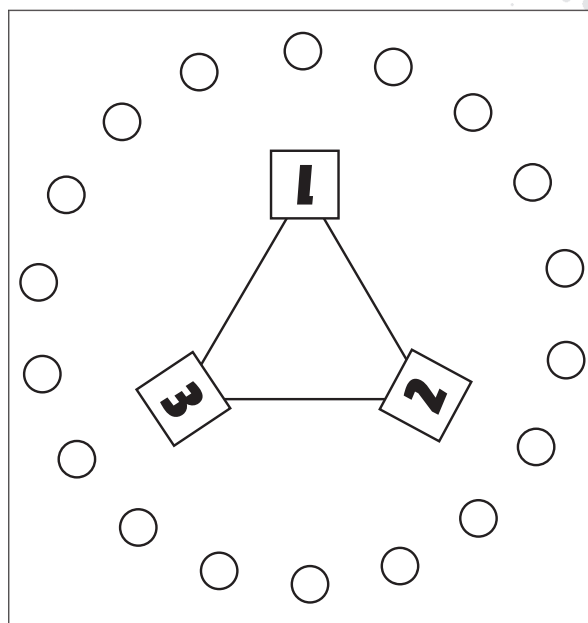


[Show visual 19.] There are many different kinds of Christians. Some are like slippers: they prefer staying comfortably at home than taking part in a difficult outreach. Some are like flip-

flops: they enjoy fun and outings, but they don't want to bother their friends with a serious matter like the Gospel. Some are like running shoes: when someone asks them if they believe in God, they run away fast from the conversation. Some are like baby's shoes: they always feel they are not spiritually mature enough to speak to others about God. Some are like high-heeled

shoes: they are proud of being Christians and speak to unbelievers from very high up. Some are like football boots: they are very straight and hard in the way they approach non-Christians. What kind are you? Put on the shoes of the Gospel of peace. Ask the Lord to help you be a good witness.

Method: Shoe voting

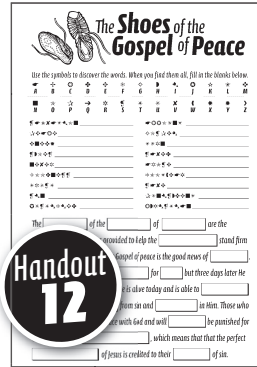


Draw on the floor a big triangle with coloured tape. Put a piece of paper at each corner with 1, 2, 3 written as shown. Have the teens sit around the triangle. When you ask a question, they will go all together and put one of their shoes somewhere on the triangle: on 1 if their answer is 1, etc. They can also put their shoe on the line between two numbers if they hesitate between two answers, or even at the centre of the triangle if they can't decide. When all the shoes are down, have a little discussion with them about how they answered and how to be a good witness. Then tell them to take their shoe back, ask the second question, etc.

- Suppose a non-Christian friend invites you to take part in an activity on Sunday morning. How would you react?

1. Just say you can't come, with no further explanation.

2. Explain that you go to church on Sundays and why.
 3. Accept the offer.
- ◀ Suppose you are asked to help give out Gospel tracts on the street next Saturday. What do you do?
1. Try to find a good excuse not to go.
 2. Pray and ask God to prepare you for this.
 3. Encourage others to take part in the distribution.
- ◀ Suppose a non-Christian friend notices you have a Bible in your bedroom. What do you do?
1. Ask him if he has ever read it.
 2. Suggest he borrows it.
 3. Find a way to change the conversation.



Method: Quiz

Photocopy handout 12 for all the teens. They could fill it in during the programme or later at home. It will help them review the lesson. ●



HANDOUT 11 ANSWERS

Discover the words: salvation; peace; enemy; shoes; never; goodness; trust; sin; justified; account; Gospel; turn; saved; arose; footwear; save; punishment; Christian.

Fill in the blanks: shoes; gospel; peace; footwear; Christian; enemy; salvation; punishment; sin; arose; save; turn; trust; saved; never; justified; goodness; account.

The Shield of Faith

Objectives: We would like the teens:

-  to understand how Satan attacks them with anger, fear, self-pity and loneliness.
-  to realise that only faith enables them to overcome Satan and these wrong feelings.
-  to remember how great God is and rely on His promises.
-  to put their faith in God and experience joy and peace.

Introduction: Under fire!

You need five paper balls or soft balls that can be thrown at somebody without hurting him. Ask for six volunteers. One of them will stand in front of a wall. The five others will take a ball each and stand in line a few metres away. They will have to throw their balls all at once at the other teen. He can move and try to avoid the balls. The rest of the group determines how many balls reached the target. Then repeat the experiment but this time provide a large piece of cardboard (size comparable to a soldier's breastplate) the teen can use to protect himself. The group will see how effective this protection is.

The Roman soldier's shield



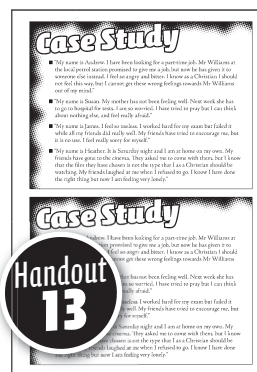
[Show visual 20.] The Roman soldier's shield was a vital part of his equipment. The shield was approximately 120 cm x 75 cm (4 ft x 2.5 ft). It was made of wood and covered with leather and cloth. The fiery arrows used by the enemy had material

tightly wrapped round the point. The material had been soaked in a flammable substance and would be ignited just before being shot at the target. This could inflict terrible injuries. To cause confusion the enemy would send these darts from all directions and the soldiers had to be ready with their shields to protect themselves. The shield served both to protect the soldier and to put out the fire of the arrows.

Satan's fiery darts

Ephesians 6:16 warns us that Satan has his "fiery darts" with which to attack the Christian. When problems or difficulties arise in our lives, Satan takes advantage of the situation and tries to hit us with fiery darts such as anger, fear, self-pity or loneliness.

Method: Case studies



Give handout 13 to all the teens. Ask a volunteer to read the first paragraph concerning Andrew. Then ask a few questions to help the teens identify with him. Do the same with the next parts.

- "My name is Andrew. I have been looking for a part-time job. Mr Williams at the local petrol station promised to give me a job, but now he has given it to someone else instead. I feel so angry and bitter. I know as a Christian I should not feel this way, but I cannot get these wrong feelings

towards Mr Williams out of my mind.”

Questions: Why is Andrew furious?

What else can make us very angry? How does anger affect our behaviour?

- “My name is Susan. My mother has not been feeling well. Next week she has to go to hospital for tests. I am so worried. I have tried to pray but I can think about nothing else, and feel really afraid.”

Questions: Why is Susan so worried?

What other circumstances can fill us with fear? Can prayer help us?

- “My name is James. I feel so useless. I worked hard for my exam but failed it while all my friends did really well. My friends have tried to encourage me, but it is no use. I feel really sorry for myself.”

Questions: Why does James have such a low self-esteem? Why do the words of encouragement from his friends not help?

Can you think of other circumstances that can make us feel useless?

- “My name is Heather. It is Saturday night and I am at home on my own. My friends have gone to the cinema. They asked me to come with them, but I know that the film they have chosen is not the type that I as a Christian should be watching. My friends laughed at me when I refused to go. I know I have done the right thing but now I am feeling very lonely.”
- Questions: What do you think of Heather’s decision? What were the consequences? Can you think of similar situations we may face?

These four young people struggled with anger, fear, self-pity and loneliness. What feeling do you struggle with? Think about it. The Christian life is not easy. Remember, Paul compared it to a battle! We have trusted in the Lord Jesus but we will still face problems and difficulties. Satan often takes the opportunity these difficulties provide to make things seem worse than they are. Most

of all, he loves to make us doubt or question God. Satan hopes that by hitting us with the ‘fiery darts’ of fear, anger, loneliness or self-pity, he can make us lose faith in God. We need protection from Satan’s attacks, and the protection God has provided for the Christian is the shield of faith.

Protected by the shield of faith



[Show visual 21. You could put a cover on the text and remove it progressively as you deal

with the next three points.] Faith enables us to overcome Satan. By faith we can resist Satan (1 Peter 5:9) and win the victory (1 John 5:4). But it is not faith in ourselves. It is faith in God. We must have faith that God knows, cares about and understands the problems we face, and that He loves us and will help us to come through them. When you are attacked, faith in God is your shield. The wonderful thing is that God can be relied upon fully. We can have complete faith in Him because of ... [Remove the cover.]

His Person

God is everywhere (Jeremiah 23:24) and knows everything, even your words and thoughts (Psalm 139:2-4). Nothing takes Him by surprise! He knows exactly what you are facing, and cares because He loves you (1 John 4:8). It is good to study the Bible and discover what God is like, because knowing about His Person will help you to trust Him. The wonderful thing is that God never changes (Malachi 3:6). When you place your faith in Him, you will never be disappointed.

His promises

God's Word contains many wonderful promises for the Christian. He promises that He will never leave you (Hebrews 13:5). He promises that nothing or no-one can take you away from Him (John 10:28). He promises that He will be with you to lead and guide you (Proverbs 3:6). He promises to supply all your needs (Philippians 4:19). Can you trust God to keep these promises? Yes, absolutely – God cannot lie (Hebrews 6:18).

His power

Our God is powerful (Psalm 147:5). Nothing is too difficult for Him (Jeremiah 32:17). When we face opposition from Satan, it is good to remember that God is greater than Satan (1 John 4:4b). God is able to help us through difficult times. As we live to serve the Lord, His power is available to us (Philippians 4:13).

Think of what the Lord Jesus Christ has accomplished for you at the cross and the tomb. He defeated Satan. Think of all the Father, Son and Holy Spirit have done and are doing for you. When Satan attacks with his fiery darts, your protection comes from holding on to your faith in God. Faith is acting on what you believe, even when you doubt.

LESSON BREAK

Method: Postcards

Divide the teens into four groups. Give each group a pen and a postcard. Remind them of what Andrew, Susan, James and Heather wrote (handout 13) and ask them to write a postcard back to one of the four people. In a few words they should try to express their compassion, give some advice and quote a verse.

Obviously the postcards are fictitious and won't be sent. The method can help the teens think about how to trust God when they are angry, anxious, discouraged or lonely. When they have finished writing, ask the groups to read their postcards aloud. This activity is more suitable for saved teens.

Method: Interview

Invite someone who could share his testimony. It could be someone who has lost his job or has had a serious health problem, but has overcome this trial with the Lord's help. You could ask questions such as: What difficulty did you face? How did you feel? What did you do to overcome these feelings? How was your relationship with God affected? Did this trial strengthen your faith in Him? What particular truths concerning God helped you go through this difficult time? As you look back, what did you learn from all this?

Satan is well armed with his fiery darts. Sometimes he sends a steady bombardment, but he can also stop attacking. Why do you think he does this? He tries to make us feel proud or secure. Other times you know God's blessing, then a sudden attack comes. Another of his tactics is to attack you at your weakest point where he can cause maximum damage.

Conclusion

The shield of faith protects you by preventing Satan's fiery darts from injuring you. Then it puts out the fire so that the influence of the darts does not spread. Notice Ephesians 6:16 speaks about "taking the shield". You have the girdle, the breastplate and the footwear on. Now you must take the shield and use it. Whatever difficulties you face, trust in God. Remember His Person – He is able

to help you in any situation. Remember His Promises – they are true, so you can take encouragement from them. Remember His Power – nothing is too difficult for Him. If you use the shield of faith, Satan's fiery darts will not be able to harm you.

Method: Wordsearch



Photocopy handout 14 for all the teens. They could fill it in during the programme or later at home. It will help them review the lesson. ●



HANDOUT 14 ANSWERS

Fill in the blanks:
attack;
person;
target;
doubts.

A	T	T	W	O	C	H	R	O	W	I	T
C	K	A	R	R	A	G	R	A	E	D	C
C	T	S	R	D	D	E	T	T	F	T	A
A	T	W	O	D	U	O	D	D	E	G	F
E	R	F	D	U	S	H	O	U	L	R	I
H	T	A	Y	T	D	I	D	B	T	A	C
H	C	R	E	I	L	E	P	U	L	I	T
R	I	P	R	A	A	R	U	O	D	R	E
I	T	S	U	D	T	S	B	T	S	O	P
C	C	N	E	D	A	I	S	A	R	N	E
T	A	C	A	G	C	R	T	R	E	P	R
P	I	T	A	R	A	H	C	H	R	S	O

The Helmet of Salvation

Objectives: We would like the teens:

-  to understand Satan's tactics: he wants us to live for the present and fills our mind with all kinds of concerns and desires.
-  to realise that believers should look forward: one day they will be glorified.
-  to focus on this "living hope" and live according to it.
-  to ask God to save them.

Introduction: Partly revealed

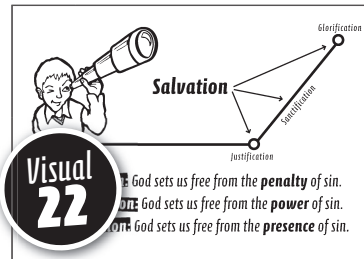
Bring two or three objects to the meeting. Find a way to cover a good part of them. Teens will have to guess what they are by examining the visible parts. It can be very difficult if you manage to find some unusual objects, e.g. a windscreen wiper, a ski pole, a horse saddle, an aerial, etc. Alternatively you could use some of the photographs on the CD provided with this manual.



We can have similar difficulties when we consider our lives. There are many things we do not see and understand. There are also things we have lost sight of. We need to consider our past, our present and our future. We need a fuller view of the Christian life.

Salvation

The Bible teaches that whoever repents from sin and puts his trust in Jesus is saved. [Show progressively the diagram provided on visual 22.] Salvation is something which happened to you at a certain date in the past. You were saved at the time you turned from sin



and trusted in Christ. That is justification – Christ's righteousness put to your account of sin.

But there is more to salvation and the Christian life than that. We are not perfect and there is a work of God going on in us at present. That is sanctification – growing to be more like Jesus. Then there is a future to salvation – a day coming when the Christian will be absolutely perfect. That is glorification. When Christ returns, we shall be like him. We shall be glorified. Then our salvation will be complete.

Justification sets us free from the *penalty* of sin;

Sanctification sets us free from the *power* of sin;

Glorification sets us free from the *presence* of sin.

The Roman soldier's helmet



We want to keep this diagram in mind as we go back to the Christian armour. Today we will consider another part of the armour. [Show visual 23.] The helmet worn by the Roman soldier

was a leather cap strengthened by a metal covering. This was obviously a vital piece

of armour protecting the soldier's head. A blow to the head could easily be fatal. The helmet was absolutely essential for combat. No sword could cut through it. The Roman soldier could fight with a certain amount of confidence.

But what does Paul mean by the helmet of salvation (Ephesians 6:17)? To help answer this question we should look at other Scriptures. This is necessary in studying God's Word. 1 Thessalonians 5:8 tells us that the helmet is "the hope of salvation". This is not a hope such as "I hope it doesn't rain for the football match tomorrow", but is something which the Christian looks forward to as a certainty. Paul is telling us to put on the helmet of salvation, which means look to the time when we shall be glorified.

Attacks on our minds

As an enemy attempts to hit the soldier's head, Satan tries to attack our minds. We must remember we are in a battle. Satan doesn't want us to think about God and about our salvation and wonderful destiny. So he attempts to fill our minds with old sins, fears, doubts, bad language and even blasphemous thoughts. He tries to fill our imaginations with wrong desires, passions and lusts.

God wants you to play your part by not providing the enemy with ammunition. Be careful in your choice of magazines, TV programmes, music and videos. Many of these have content which would hinder Christians. Satan attacks our minds and tries to get us to have wrong attitudes or to say wrong things. According to Philippians 4:8, we should think about what is true, noble, just, pure, etc.

Putting on the helmet of salvation

You need to put on the helmet of salvation God has provided to guard your mind against Satan's attacks. Remember what God has done for you (justification), what He is doing (sanctification) but also what He will do (glorification). Be filled with the "hope of salvation". Look at your life from another perspective and act upon what you believe.

LESSON BREAK

Let us consider some ideas Satan tries to plant in our minds and see how the helmet of salvation protects us:

"Everybody's doing it": Worldliness

You see many young people enjoying life and not bothering about morality. Satan wants to convince you to be like them. It is very easy to lower your standards as a Christian just because so many people do so. Then you become content with lower standards and get entangled with the things of the world. Put on the helmet of salvation and remember God's promises. In Titus 2:11-13 we see that our blessed hope should spur us on towards godly lives. You should be seeking to live in a way which would be pleasing to the Lord Jesus if He were to return today. If you don't have this as your goal then you will just drift into the same activities as everybody in school and forget about church and youth meetings. Even other believers may not set a good example and would lower your standards. You must not look to the world or other people but be steadfast in following God. You need to put on the helmet and sort out your priorities in the light of His coming.

“If only I had”: Discontentment

So often we look at others who are not believers and see what they have. You are probably tempted to follow the trend and get the same things. Satan delights in reminding us how others get on well. Psalm 73:1-6 speaks very clearly of this. Perhaps you, on the other hand, have lost out in an exam because you would not cheat like others. Satan would tell you that if you want to get on in this world you will have to give up or at least compromise your Christian standards. Psalm 37:1-5 disproves this. The Lord tells you to put on the helmet. What do qualifications, promotions and possessions mean in the light of Christ’s coming? The helmet will help you seek what has eternal value. Lay up treasures in Heaven (Matthew 6:19-20). You have wonderful things to look forward to!

“I don’t care”: Selfishness

You also need protection against the temptation to be unconcerned about the needs around you. Satan tries to convince you that taking care of yourself is enough. No time to help others! No time to preach the Gospel to the unsaved! Satan does not want you to have a missionary vision – leave that to the “full-time” workers! When you put on the helmet and consider the Lord’s return, you become concerned for those who are not ready – in your family, among your friends, in your neighbourhood and school and those in other lands who have never heard the truth. Acts 1:8 gives instruction about your ever-widening responsibility. You can also become careless about your own Christian life, e.g. neglecting

prayer, Bible study, church attendance, etc. Do not let this attitude come into your life. Seek the Lord and serve the Lord. You will be rewarded in Heaven!

Method: Test your mind

TEST YOUR MIND

Read about how your mind would react in the following situations. What would be your first thought? What would be your second thought? Write your answers in the boxes provided. (You can use a pen or pencil to write your answers.)

1. I have bought myself something great and very expensive, e.g. a top class mobile phone...

A. I am so glad for him! 0
B. I need one too! -1
C. I prefer to use my money in a way that pleases God! +2
D. I could ask my parents to buy me one! -2
E. I don't need such a good one! +1

2. I have heard that your school teacher broke his leg and will be off for some time...

A. I will probably have no classes tomorrow, hurray! -1
B. I would like to find a way to encourage him! +2
C. I think he got what he deserved! -3
D. I wouldn't like this to happen to me! 0
E. I should pray for him! +2

3. The community centre is organised for next Saturday and you are asked to please take part...

A. I will probably have no classes tomorrow, hurray! -1
B. I would like to find a way to encourage him! +2
C. I think he got what he deserved! -3
D. I wouldn't like this to happen to me! 0
E. I should pray for him! +2

Handout 15

Write down your first and second thoughts in the boxes provided. (You can use a pen or pencil to write your answers.)

Give handout 15 to all the teens. Assure them that the results of this test will be kept confidential and encourage them to answer questions honestly. Then give them the following grades so they can work out their final scores. Grade the first and second thought scores separately.

Situation 1: A friend bought himself something great and very expensive, e.g. a top class mobile phone ...

- A. I am so glad for him! 0
- B. I need one too! -1
- C. I prefer to use my money in a way that pleases God! +2
- D. I could ask my parents to buy me one! -2
- E. I don't need such a good one! +1

Situation 2: You heard that your school teacher broke his leg and will be off for some time ...

- A. I will probably have no classes tomorrow, hurray! -1
- B. I would like to find a way to encourage him! +2
- C. I think he got what he deserved! -3
- D. I wouldn't like this to happen to me! 0
- E. I should pray for him! +2

Situation 3: An evangelistic outing is organised for next Saturday and you are asked to please take part ...

- 42

The Sword of the Spirit

Objectives: We would like the teens:

-  to understand that the Word of God is inspired and is a powerful weapon against the enemy.
-  to realise that the Holy Spirit enables Christians to understand it, obey it and use it in battle.
-  to memorise key verses they can quote and rely on when under attack.
-  to read the Word and find out the way of salvation.

Introduction: Shopping



Can you name the five parts of the armour we have already looked at? What else do we need for battle? [Show visual 24.] The sword of the Spirit is the sixth piece of armour we come to look at. The sword

is quite unique in that it does not provide protection for a specific part of the body, but rather it keeps the enemy back as a whole. This piece of armour is not only used to defend but also to attack.



[Show visual 25.] There are no prizes for guessing exactly what the sword of the Spirit is, for Ephesians 6:17 tells us that it is the Word of God. The piece of armour we are studying is for

attacking the enemy and for defending our new life in the Lord Jesus. Satan comes in close to fight as well as throwing his darts from far away. It is therefore vital to use the sword along with all the other armour. As Christians we are called by God to uphold His laws, His Word, His standards and to present His plan of salvation. To equip us our Heavenly Father has given us the Bible.

The Word of God

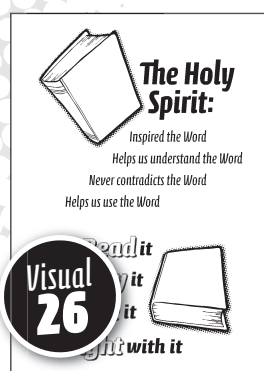
The fact that the Bible is the Word of God is the very foundation of our faith. Without it our faith is in vain. Have you ever thought what it would be like if we had not received the Word of God? Think of the helpless misery and confusion we would be in if we did not possess the Bible. We would be without God, without hope, stumbling over our own ideas, uncertain about Who God is and the plan God has for us. We would not know anything about the cross or the hope of eternal life.

The Bible is a book that has been proved. The facts recorded in the Bible are amazingly accurate. This book has been complete for over nineteen hundred years. These years have been the busiest and most changeable in the world's history, yet in spite of all these changes the Bible has remained strong and relevant. The Bible stands perfect, fresh and complete. It is applicable to every heart.

The Holy Spirit and the Word

Method: Sword drill

Ask teens to “draw their sword” (hold their Bible up high). Give a Bible reference – e.g. “2 Peter 1:21”. Have them repeat it. Then command, “Attack!” and they compete to find the verse as quickly as possible. The first teen to find it stands up. Give a few moments for others to find it, and then ask the winner to read the verse aloud. You may use the same method as you deal with other key verses in the rest of the lesson.



[Show visual 26 progressively.] The Bible is not the ideas of men (2 Peter 1:21). The Holy Spirit **inspired** men to write this book. This means that He showed them exactly what to write. All of

it is inspired (2 Timothy 3:16). Inspiration is a miracle and as with any miracle we just cannot understand it. We know Jesus took five loaves and two fish and fed five thousand men plus women and children. Although we cannot explain this nor understand it, we believe it. The Holy Spirit made use of man's reason, his intellect, his style of thought and writing so that each book in the Bible is quite different. Yet, the Bible is not man's ideas, but God's Word as directed by His Holy Spirit. Every word is originally inspired by God. This is the sword God has given to the Christian. You cannot fight the enemy in your own strength or power. You must use the Word of the living God.

The Holy Spirit **helps us understand** the Word of God (1 Corinthians 2:12) and enables us to receive it. The Holy Spirit will teach us (John 14:26) and guide us

(John 16:13) if we only take time to listen and learn. The Bible is the only book in the world where the author is immediately available through His Spirit to guide us.

The Holy Spirit **never contradicts** or bypasses the Word of God which He inspired. He will never ask you to do something forbidden by God's Word. The Holy Spirit and the Bible cannot be separated. You may hear a friend say, “I believe God has told me I should go out with Stephen even though he is not a Christian.” It is not true because it goes against what the Bible says (e.g. 2 Corinthians 6:14). The Holy Spirit will never go against the teaching He inspired.

The Holy Spirit **helps us use** the Word of God properly. We are in a battle against Satan and men's wrong ideas (Colossians 2:8). Our best weapon is the Word of God. The Holy Spirit enables us to remember key verses, quote them and rely on them. With His help, we may overcome sin, grow and live to God's glory. We can depend on the Holy Spirit to live the Word out in our lives and to resist the devil (James 4:7).

Method: Object lesson

In Ephesians 6, Paul compared the Bible to a sword. The Bible could be compared to other objects. Put various objects on the table in front of the group: mirror, magnifying glass, modelling clay, ruler, map, compass, handkerchief, clock, etc. Ask volunteers to come up, pick up an object and explain shortly to the rest of the group why the Bible could be compared to it. When the group has no more ideas, the teacher could make comments on the remaining objects. Mirror: when we read the Bible we discover a lot about ourselves. Magnifying glass: the Bible can reveal something to us that is not right in our lives.

Modelling clay: God uses the Bible to mould us to the image of the Lord Jesus. Ruler: the Bible sets rules we must follow. Map: God uses the Bible to guide us in His perfect will. Compass: when we lose direction in life, the Bible reminds us of the way to go. Handkerchief: the Bible and its promises comfort us when we are in distress. Clock: the Bible will always last.

LESSON BREAK

Using the sword of the Spirit

Read it

The Bible is the Word of God, so read it and pray that the Holy Spirit will teach you through it. It is a tremendous privilege to have the written Word of God in our own language. Can you imagine receiving a text message on your mobile phone and deleting it without even bothering to read it? The Bible is God's message to you, so you should not ignore God's Word. Do not neglect your daily Quiet Time. As you read the Bible, the Lord will speak to you through it. God's Word has things to say which are relevant to your life. He wants to teach you more about Himself and to show you how you should live as a Christian. You should be studying God's Word to discover these truths.

Obey it

The Bible is the Word of God, so obey it. Reading the Bible is important, but it is not enough. When God's Word shows you something which you should do, then do it! Remember, when the Lord Jesus became your Saviour, He also became your Lord. The true test of love for Him is willingness to do as he says (John 14:15). This will mean being willing to be different from your friends as you live in a way which pleases God. It will not always be easy, but it is

worthwhile because God's way is always best (Psalm 18:30).

Share it

The Bible is the Word of God so share it. The central message of the Bible is the wonderful truth of what Jesus did on the cross. The Old Testament points forward to the cross, the New Testament reflects on the cross. This message of how God's perfect Son died to take the punishment for sin and then rose again is the message so many people in our world need to hear. By turning from their sin and trusting in Christ they can be made right with God. But how will they hear this wonderful message unless someone shares the Word of God with them (Romans 10:14)? If you are a Christian then you have a responsibility not only to read and obey God's Word, but to share it with others. Are you a witness to your friends in school, or to unsaved family members? If you are willing to use the sword of the Spirit, God can do wonderful things in the lives of others through your witness.

Fight with it

You should also learn to use the Bible when you are under attack. The Sword of the Spirit is a weapon you can fight with. When Jesus was tempted in the wilderness, He quoted Scriptures to resist the devil (Matthew 4:1-11). [See method further in the lesson.] He dumbfounded Pharisees, scribes and doctors of the law just by using the Word (John 10:34). These men tried to discredit Him but the Lord Jesus responded by quoting the Word of God. If He used it, how much more should we? You need to memorise key verses that can help you in battle. For example, verses about creation, sin, salvation and the Christian life should be stored up in your memory so that you can use

them. It won't be enough to be able to quote them. You will have to rely on them and act upon them with the Commander's help.

HANDOUT 17 ANSWERS

I can quote scripture:

Just tell your teacher a lie: Proverbs 12:22

Have a try: 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

Stay at home today: Hebrews 10:24-25

Method: Verses for battle

Fight with the Sword of the Spirit

Matthew 6

Satan tempted Jesus	Jesus quoted scripture
"If You are the Son of God, command these stones to become bread!"	"Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes out of the mouth of God!" (Deuteronomy 8:3)
"If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written: 'He shall give His angels charge over You.'"	"You shall not tempt the Lord your God!" (Deuteronomy 10:16)
"All these things I will give You if You bow down and worship Me!"	"You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve!" (Deuteronomy 10:17, 10:33)

In my life

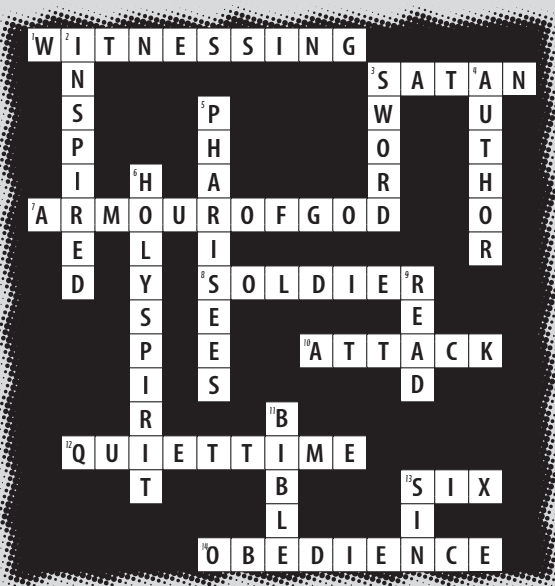
Satan tempts me	I can quote scripture

James 1:12 Proverbs 12:22
1 John 1:9 Hebrews 10:24-25
1 Timothy 6:20

Photocopy handout 17 for all the teens. Divide them into groups of five. They will read the first part of the handout about how Satan attacked Jesus and how Jesus responded with the Word of God. Then they

will have to think about what verses they could use when Satan attacks them. They will fill in the second part of the handout. A list of verses is provided.

HANDOUT 18 ANSWERS



Praying Always

Objectives: We would like the teens:

-  to understand that prayer has four aspects: worship, confession, thanksgiving and requests.
-  to realise the need to pray in every circumstance and with a believing heart.
-  to pray daily and to use a prayer disk as they intercede for their family, friends, etc.
-  to ask the Lord to save them.

Introduction: Something missing



[Show visual 27.] Here is a family going on holiday. Everybody is in the car ready for departure.

But something essential is missing: a tyre is still in the garage!

We have now studied the six pieces of armour in Ephesians 6:14-17. But something essential is missing. In verses 18-20, there is one more instruction for us we need to obey: a Christian soldier must pray! [Have a young person read Ephesians 6:18-20 to the group.] Let us see what we learn from this passage concerning prayer.

When should we pray?

In verse 18, Paul says we should pray in every circumstance. Also check out Luke 21:36 and 1 Thessalonians 5:17. You say, "That is impossible, I cannot pray all the time." But God gives us an example

in Acts 10:2 of a man who prayed always. God does not give you a command that you cannot fulfil through His power. To "pray always" means to live in such a way that we are always conscious of God. Our prayer becomes just like our breathing. We see a beautiful scene and we pray, "Thank you, Lord." In a moment of temptation we pray that our shield of faith would be strong enough to resist the devil's fiery darts. When we have an opportunity to witness we pray that God will strengthen us in telling others about His love.

Remember the Lord Jesus has promised that He will always be with those who love Him (Matthew 28:20). That means that you do not need to be in a special place to pray, you can pray wherever you are. Pray at the start of the day, pray when you are playing, working, running home from school, before you eat, pray at the end of the day ... pray always.

Method: Daily programme



Give handout 19 to all the teens and enlarge one copy on A3 to use as a visual on the board. Give the teens two minutes to write down their typical

daily programme, e.g. 7:00 Get up. 7:10 Take shower. 7:15 Get dressed. 7:30 Have breakfast. 7:45 Wait for the bus ... As a teacher you can also write down your own timetable on the A3 paper. When everybody is finished, ask the

teens: When do you think would be appropriate times to pray? How can we remember to pray in such circumstances? What difficulties could we have? Share your own experience. Give practical help according to the teens' answers.

How should we pray?

Ephesians 6:18-20 also speaks about the attitude we must have. We should not pray through habit but be alert, persistent and urgent in our prayers. Our attitudes to God and to prayer should be right. We should come to God in prayer with a believing heart (1 John 5:14). Remember God is more interested in our hearts than in our words. He will look at our motives, our desires and our love to Him before He listens to the

words we pray.

Paul told the Ephesians that they should pray all kinds of prayers. There are four things which should form part of our times of prayer. [Show visual 28.]



Worship

When we pray we should begin by worshipping God for Who He is (Psalm 29:2). Praise God for His character, e.g. His greatness, holiness, love and power. There is so much to praise God for. He is the Creator of all things, the King of kings, the Commander of the army. It is only right that we should begin our prayers in an attitude of thankfulness (Psalm 92:1).

Method: Worship through psalms

Divide the teens into groups of four or five. Give them a piece of paper, a Bible and a pen. Ask them to read Psalm 103 (part of it or the whole psalm as time permits) and to make a

list of God's characteristics. When the research is over, you could gather the teens and have a worship time. Encourage them to base their prayers on their findings.

Confession

Very often when we come into God's presence in prayer we will be very aware of our sinfulness. Sin needs to be confessed if we are to know God's forgiveness (1 John 1:9). Be open before God. It is impossible to hide anything from Him. Confess your sin honestly to Him, seek His forgiveness and ask His help to turn away from that sin. You will find that God is merciful and willing to forgive (Psalm 103:12).

Method: How God deals with my sins

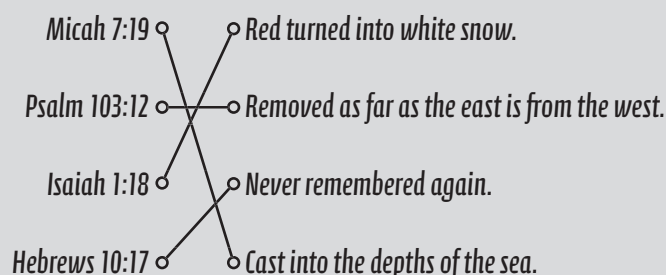


Give handout 19 to the teens. Ask them to link the references

on the left to the statements on the right. They will discover amazing ways God deals with confessed sin.



HANDOUT 19 ANSWERS



LESSON BREAK

Thanksgiving

Spend time thanking God for all He has done for you. As well as giving thanks for the Lord Jesus and all He has done, remember to thank God for the day-to-day blessings He gives. Food, home, family, health – we have so many things for which to be grateful. We all know it is good manners to say “thank you” when we receive a gift, so it is right that we should thank God for all He has given to us.

Method: Share a praise item

Ask the teens to think about their lives and select one thing they are particularly thankful for. After a couple of minutes’ silence, give each one the opportunity to share.

Requests

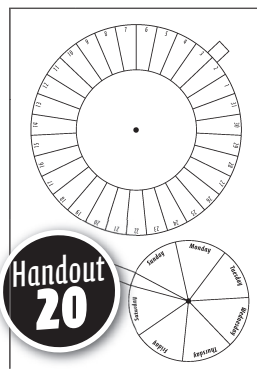
We can also bring our requests to God. In the minds of some people, asking for things is the main reason for prayer. However, it is only when we have worshipped God, confessed our sin to Him and thanked Him for all His goodness that we are in the right position to bring our requests to Him. This is the proper order. However, we should not be afraid or ashamed to bring our desires to God. He loves to hear His children pray, and promises to supply all our needs (Philippians 4:19).

Who should we pray for?

In Ephesians 6:18-20, Paul also speaks about whom we should pray for. According to verse 18, we must pray for all the Christian family, our fellow soldiers. Remember to pray for missionaries, pastors, youth leaders and other young Christians. Prayer will help the army of Christ in all its battles. We are all in a battle and sometimes we feel we are alone. As we pray for others

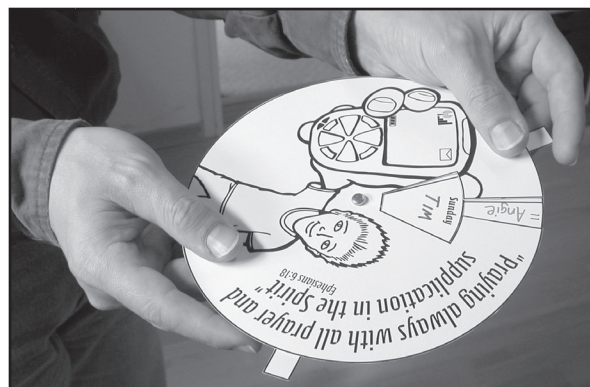
and as they pray for us we are strengthened and encouraged in this battle. Do you pray regularly for others? Make sure you do.

Method: The prayer disk



Photocopy handouts 20 and 21 on thick paper for the teens. They will have to cut out the three circles. Next they will write names of people they want to pray for. On the “week circle” (seven parts) they can write names of people they want to pray for once a week like family and close friends. On the “month circle” (31 parts) they can write the names of people they want to pray for once a month. They might not

have time to fill in everything right away but they can continue at home. Writing in pencil would give them the possibility to make changes later. Then the teens will fix the three circles together with a brass fastener (paper fastener). Every day they will turn the week circle and the month circle to find out who they should pray for. This will help them organise their intercession. You may want to end the lesson with a prayer time in small groups. Teens could use their prayer disk for the first time.



Conclusion

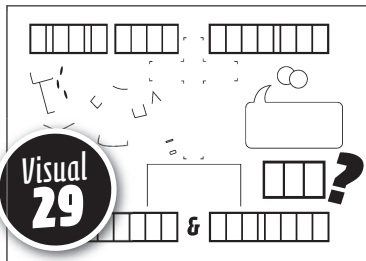
Without prayer our spiritual armour would be of little use to us. We must put on each piece of armour with prayer. Pray daily for the needs of our fellow soldiers and through prayer the army of Christ will march to victory! ●

Final Challenge

Objectives: We would like the teens:

-  to consider the attitude of various soldiers who lived at Jesus' time.
-  to realise the price the Lord Jesus paid on the cross.
-  to thank God for their salvation.
-  to genuinely search for the way to God.

Introduction: Sketch board sermon

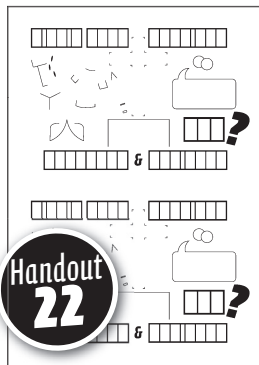


Visual
29

Enlarge visual 29 and show it to the group. You will fill in the sketch board progressively, with a black marker, as you move on in the lesson. Visual 30 shows you how the sketch board should look when it is



Visual
30



Handout
22

completed. Photocopy handout 22 and give it to the teens with a pen and something to lean on. They will try to fill in their sketch board as they listen.

We will conclude the series of lessons on the

Christian soldier by looking at some soldiers and their response to the Lord Jesus. These real life soldiers actually lived at the time when the Lord Jesus was here on Earth.

One group was similar to privates in the army today. The other two were more like lieutenants. They were called centurions because they were commanders of one hundred soldiers.

The soldiers at the cross: John 19:23-24

Try to picture the scene. Three men hanging on three crosses. There is a crowd of various groups of people around. Soldiers stand on guard. The Jewish leaders are there to make sure Jesus dies. Some of Jesus' followers are there too. Groups of interested onlookers gather out of curiosity. On the centre cross, the Lord Jesus Christ, God the Son, is suffering and dying as a sacrifice for sin. He is taking the punishment for sin that you and I deserve. He is doing so willingly.

The different groups of people have different reactions to Jesus' death. Some are happy to see Him die. Some are grief-stricken. Others mock. But amazingly in the middle of this unique scene are a group of soldiers who really do not care about Jesus and His death. In fact they are dividing Jesus' clothes among themselves. Then they come to a garment that has no seams but is woven in one piece from top to bottom. They cannot settle the argument as to who should have it. So what are they doing as the Lord Jesus Christ suffers and dies? They are casting lots (or gambling) to see who would own this special piece of clothing! How could they do such a thing in the presence of Jesus as He hangs on the cross? Because they do not care about Jesus. They only live for themselves. They are cruel and heartless soldiers doing

their job of nailing people to a cross and then dividing the victim's clothes between them.

Is it possible that you are indifferent like they were? You know about Jesus and what He has done for you. Yet you are careless about the Lord Jesus and His salvation. You have never asked the Lord Jesus for forgiveness. You have rejected Him time after time. You are not a soldier in God's army and you really do not care. That is a tragedy. You are in great danger of being separated from the Lord for all eternity.

The centurion at the cross: Mark 15:37-39

Three hours of darkness had covered the land. The Lord Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" Then Jesus died. That is why He came to Earth, to live and die so that you and I could be saved. What a price He paid so that you could be forgiven for your sin, live to please God and one day go to Heaven. All that He did was for you. Many at the cross did not show any interest. But one man did. He was the centurion who stood in front of the cross. He watched Jesus suffer. He listened as Jesus asked for forgiveness for His enemies. The centurion realised and then stated aloud, "Truly, this Man was the Son of God."

We do not know if the centurion actually received Christ as Saviour, as the Bible does not tell us. But he was certainly taking steps in the right direction. He acknowledged that Jesus really was God. The other soldiers did not care about Jesus, but he watched and was convinced about Who Jesus was. To know that was not enough. Many people know but have not received Christ as Saviour. Do not stop short of what Christ requires for your salvation. Seek the Lord's

forgiveness today. Act on what you know. Do not let God's enemy, Satan, hinder you from coming to the Lord Jesus.

The centurion who was searching:

Acts 10:1-48

Cornelius was a good-living person, a devout and God-fearing man. He gave generously to those in need and prayed regularly. He was searching for the way to God. But he had not heard of the sacrifice of the Lord Jesus on the cross. Through a combination of a vision and an invitation by Cornelius' servants, Peter realised for the first time that he had to bring the Gospel to those who were not Jews. When Peter arrived in Caesarea he found a crowd of people waiting at Cornelius' house to hear what the Lord had commanded him to tell them. When Peter preached about the life, death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus and the necessity to believe in Him, the Holy Spirit came and Cornelius and everyone in the house were saved. Cornelius was genuinely searching for the way to God and he found it through Jesus. Then he really lived for God.

Which soldier are you like?

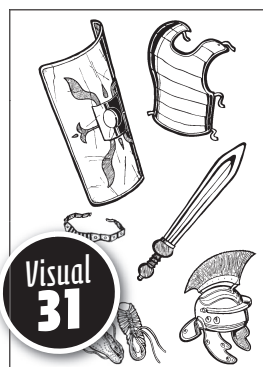
Which of these soldiers are you like? Are you like those who gambled at the cross while Jesus died, showing that they did not care? Are you like the centurion at the cross who realised Who Jesus was? Or are you like the one who was searching for the way to God?

May you be like Cornelius – trusting in the Commander, the Lord Jesus Christ. Make sure you are in God's army, not Satan's. What is your response to this final challenge from God's Word?

LESSON BREAK

You could conclude the series of lessons on the Christian soldier by a review time. Here are various possibilities you could choose from:

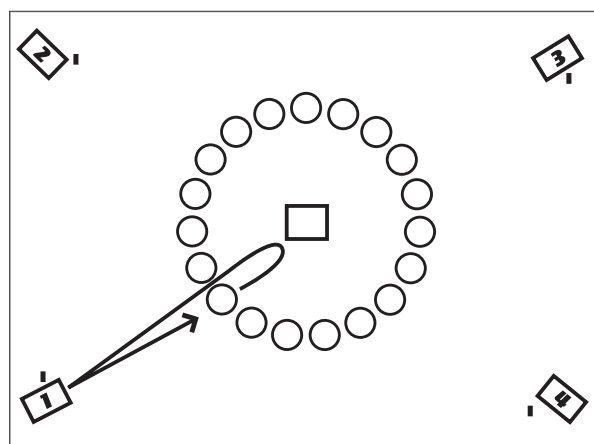
Method: Make a soldier



Truth	Believe the true Word of God and live according to it, like the Lord Jesus
Righteousness	Know that I am safe in Christ despite Satan's accusations
Peace	Preach the Gospel so many may be reconciled to God
Faith	Remember Who God is, trust Him and rely on His promises
	Keep your focus on the final day of salvation and not on the present
	Memorise key verses and rely on them in battle

Preparation:

- Make four copies of visual 31 and cut out the different parts of the armour.
- Make four copies of visual 32 and cut out the different text boxes.
- Put all the parts of the armour and the text boxes together in a box in the middle of the room.
- Set the chairs in a circle in the middle of the room around the box.
- Put a blank A3 poster on the floor in each corner of the room.
- Put a glue stick and markers next to each of the posters in the corners of the room.
- Have a dice in a small open box that can be passed around.



How to play:

- Divide the teens into four teams and assign each team a poster.
- Ask the teens to sit wherever they want in the circle.
- The dice will go around the group and teens will throw it once one after another.
- If someone throws a one, two, three, four or five he remains seated and passes the dice to the next person.
- If he throws a six he will go to the box in the middle, take a piece of armour or a text box of his choice, go to his team's poster and glue it on the poster.
- Then he must go back, sit on any chair available and wait for the dice to come to him so that he can play again.
- On the poster each piece of armour (e.g. the girdle) needs to be linked to the right key word ("Truth") and to the right description ("Believe the true Word of God and live according to it, like the Lord Jesus").
- The goal is to finish the poster with everything in its right place as soon as possible.

Additional rules:

- Those who are waiting to throw the dice must remain seated.
- It doesn't matter if several people of the same team are at the poster at the same time. This can happen if several throw a six.
- You can't change chair except when you come back from the poster.
- You are allowed to communicate with the rest of your team.
- If you see a mistake on your poster, you can correct it before going back.

- If you get to the poster and find out that the piece you took with you is already on the poster, you must bring it back to the box in the middle and sit down.

When the game is over, take time to comment on the importance of each piece of armour and remind them of the necessity of prayer.

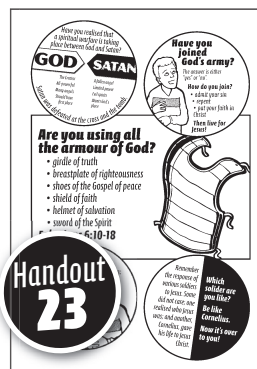
Method: Plastic cups

You will need around thirty plastic cups. Divide the teens into two teams and ask questions alternately [see list below]. The person who answers the question builds two plastic cups on top of one another on the table, forming a tower of plastic cups as the quiz progresses. The two teams compete to see which can build the highest tower. At the end of the quiz award ten points for each cup in the tower. If at any time a team feels that their tower is in danger of falling, they may begin a second tower. However, cups in the second tower are only worth five points each.

1. Which part of the armour protects the Christian from Satan's fiery darts? (Shield of faith.)
2. What does the girdle of truth help us guard against? (False teaching.)
3. When should Christians pray according to 1 Thessalonians 5:17? (Always.)
4. What piece of armour protects Christians' minds from Satan's attacks? (Helmet of salvation.)
5. What should Christians do when aware of sin in their lives? (Confess it to God.)
6. Give two things we learned that the Christian should do with God's Word. (Read, obey, share.)

7. What part of the armour reminds us that the perfect goodness of the Lord Jesus is credited to the Christian's account of sin? (Breastplate of righteousness.)
8. Give two things that should form part of our prayer times. (Worship, confession, thanksgiving, requests.)
9. Name two of the "fiery darts" Satan uses. (Anger, fear, self-pity, loneliness.)
10. Which part of the armour helps us not to be hypocritical? (Girdle of truth.)
11. What two things must you do to have your sin forgiven? (Turn from sin, trust in Christ.)
12. What is the wonderful hope that Christians have to look forward to? (Jesus is coming again.)
13. How did the men who wrote the Bible know what to write? (The Holy Spirit directed them.)
14. What three words beginning with "P" are reasons to have faith in God? (Person, promises, power.)
15. Which is the third piece of armour mentioned? (Shoes of the Gospel of peace.)
16. Give two types of people Christians should pray for? (Missionaries, pastors, youth leaders, other Christians.)

Method: Prayer time and take home paper



Photocopy handout 23 for all the teens. Ask teens to read aloud the different parts. Have a prayer time based on it. Teens will bring it home for future reference. ●

Visuals

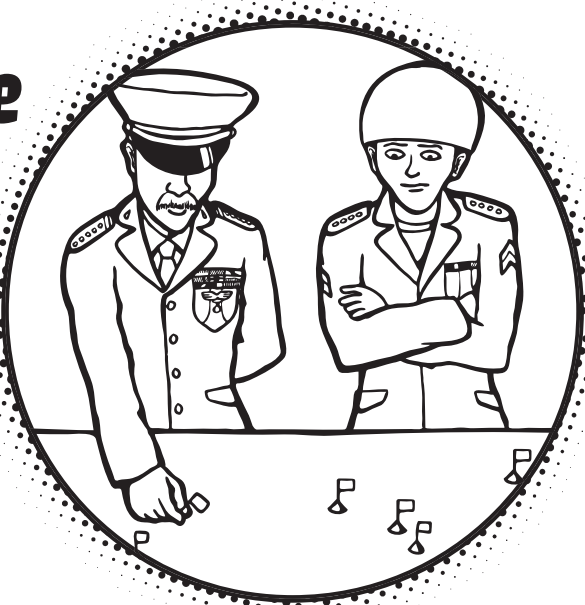
Appendix

1

THE Christian SOLDIER

The Battle

- Spiritual warfare
- The enemy's strategy
- Joining the army
- Ready for battle

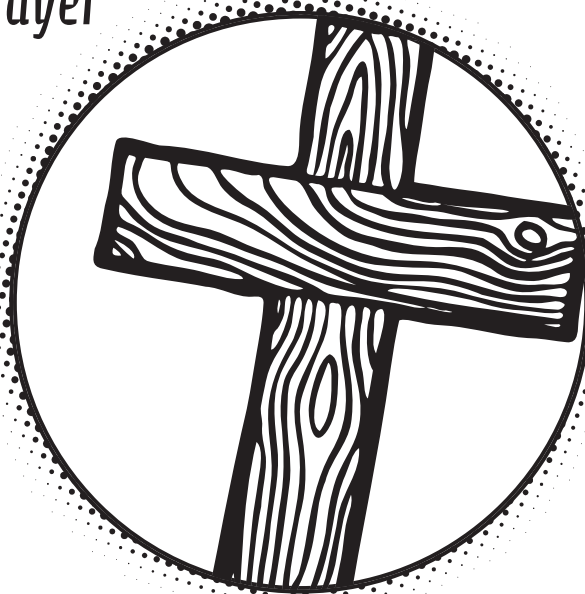


The Equipment

- Girdle • Breastplate • Shoes
- Shield • Helmet • Sword
- Prayer



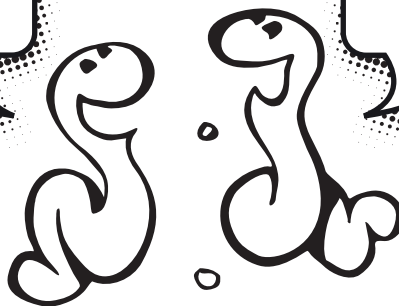
Final Challenge





*Whoa! Did
you feel that?!*

*Yeah! I don't
think we're alone
in the world!*



GOD

SATAN

**THE
CREATOR**

**A FALLEN
ANGEL**

**ALL-
POWERFUL**

**LIMITED
POWER**

**MANY
ANGELS**

**EVIL
SPIRITS**

**SHOULD HAVE
1ST PLACE**

**WANTS
GOD'S PLACE**

SATAN'S TACTICS

*He **blinds** the minds
of unbelievers to the
Gospel message.*

2 Corinthians 4:4

*He **snatches**
away the
Word of God.*

Matthew 13:19



*He **keeps** people captive.*

2 Timothy 2:26

Running 4 clues



Clue 1

What were the two dangers when thinking about God's enemy, Satan?



Clue 2

List some things that are dangerous for us to become involved with – e.g. palm reading.



Clue 3

How many times does the phrase "I will" appear in Isaiah 14:13-14?



Clue 4

What was God's response to Satan's proud ambitions? See Jude 6.



Clue 5

Note two names of Satan from these references:
Matthew 4:3
1 John 3:8



Clue 6

Note two more names for Satan that show his character. See John 8:44.



Clue 7

Look up 2 Corinthians 4:4 and write down one of Satan's tactics with unbelievers.



Clue 8

Check out Matthew 13:19 to find another ploy of the enemy.



Clue 9

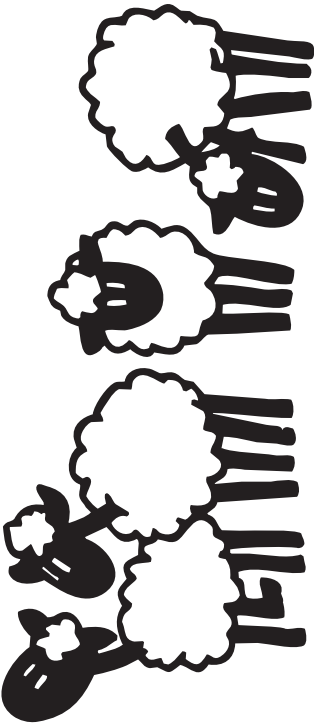
The third tactic of Satan is found in 2 Timothy 2:26. What is it?



Popularity

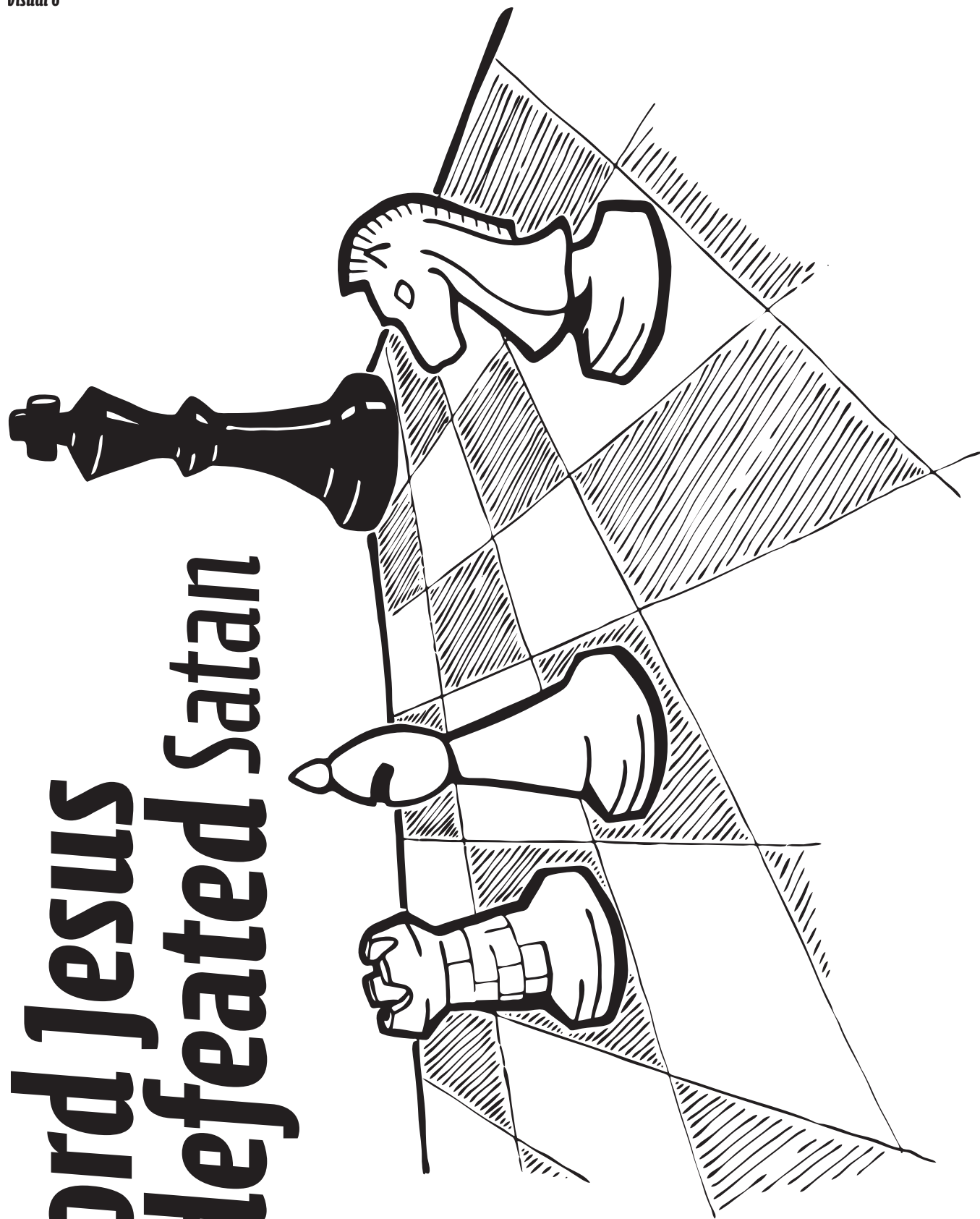


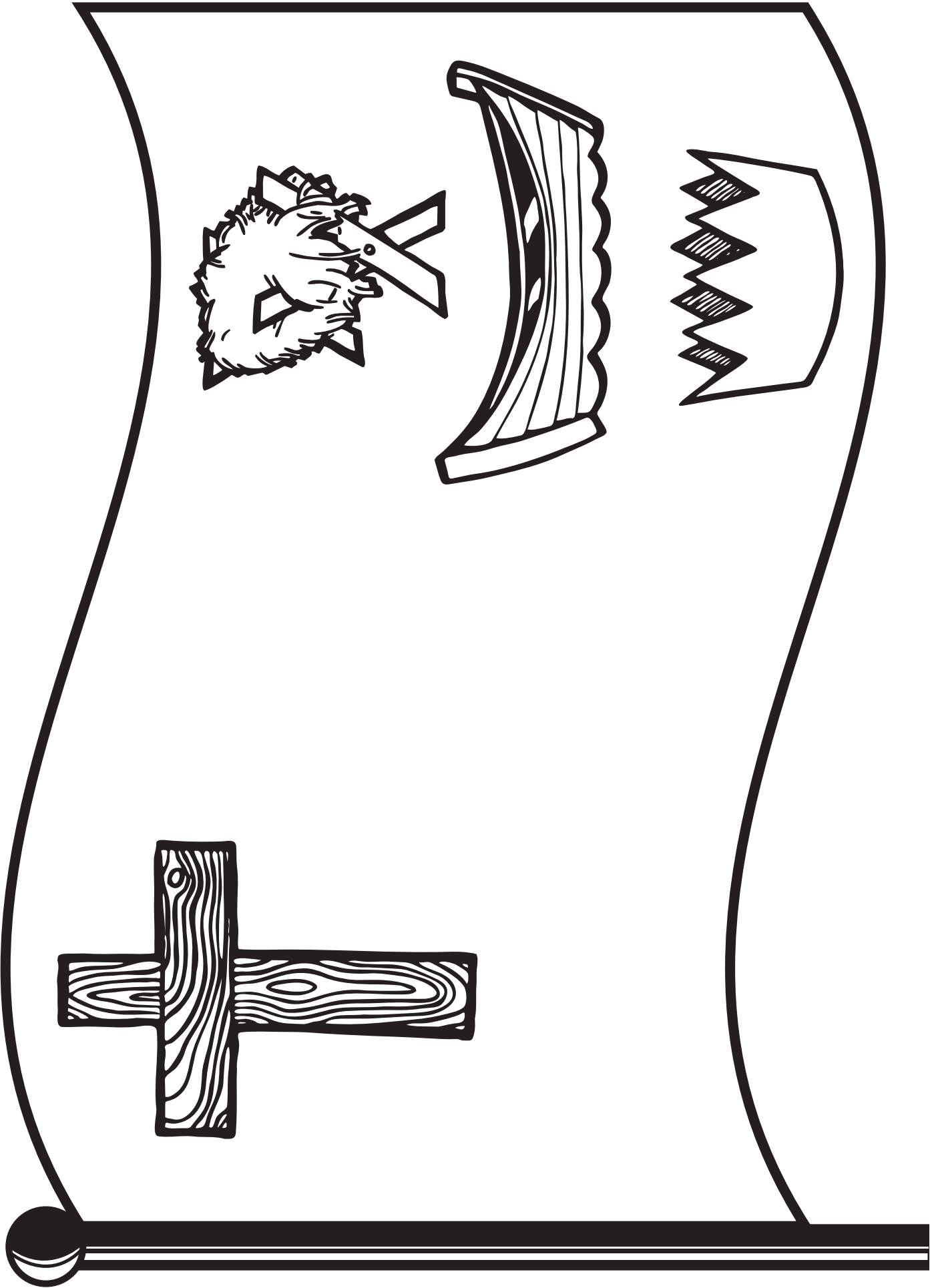
Exciting experiences



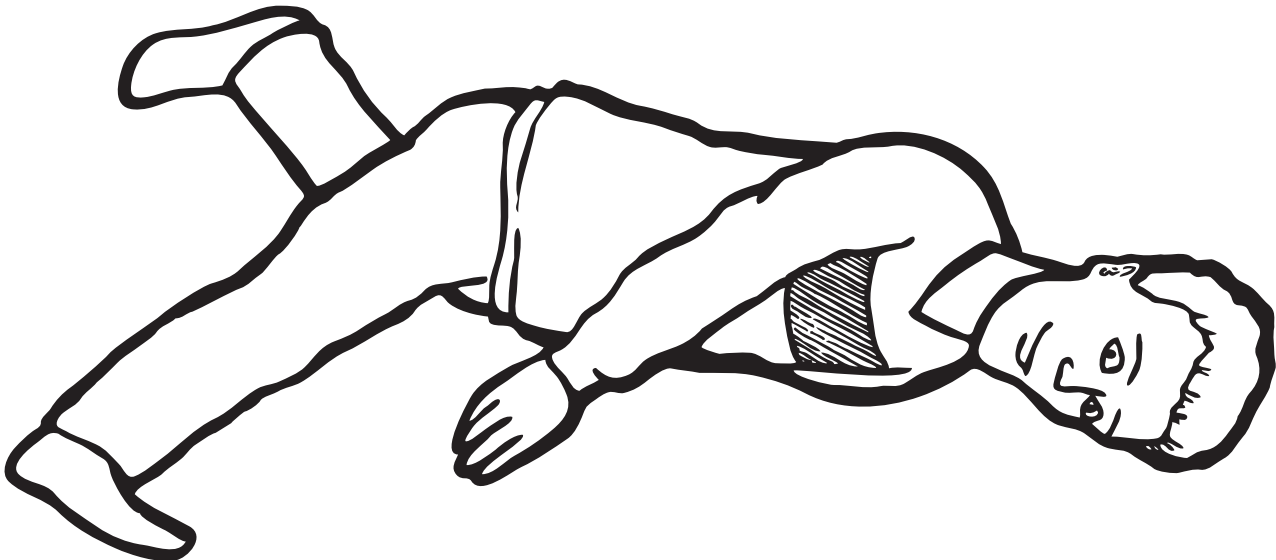
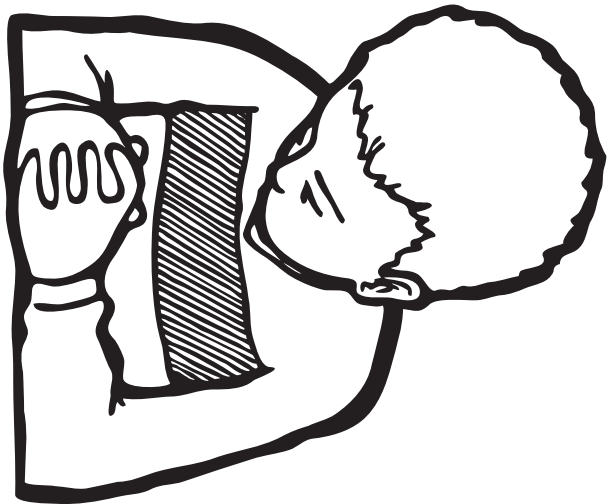
Attractive sin

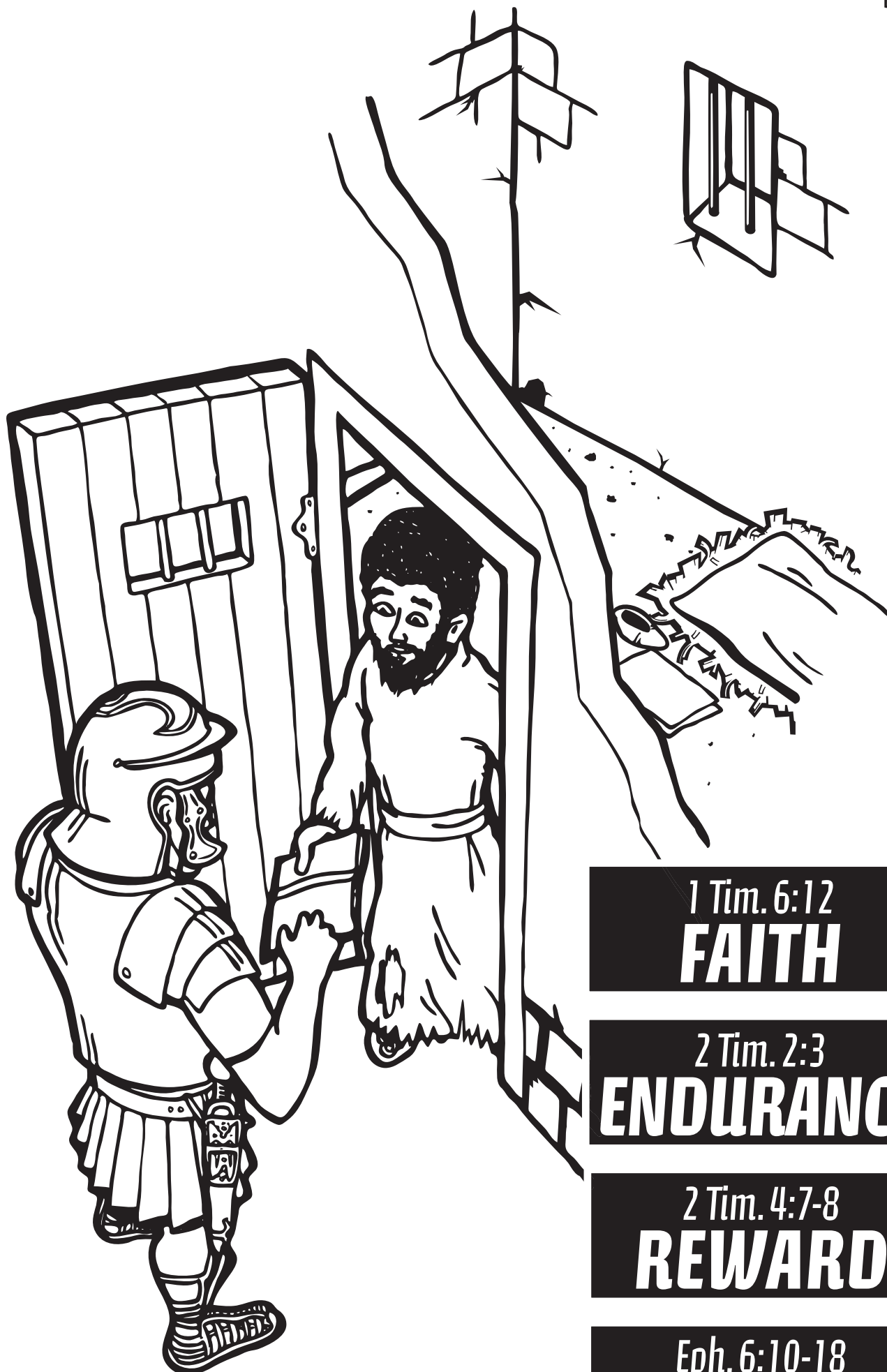
The Lord Jesus has defeated Satan





How to Join?





1 Tim. 6:12

FAITH

2 Tim. 2:3

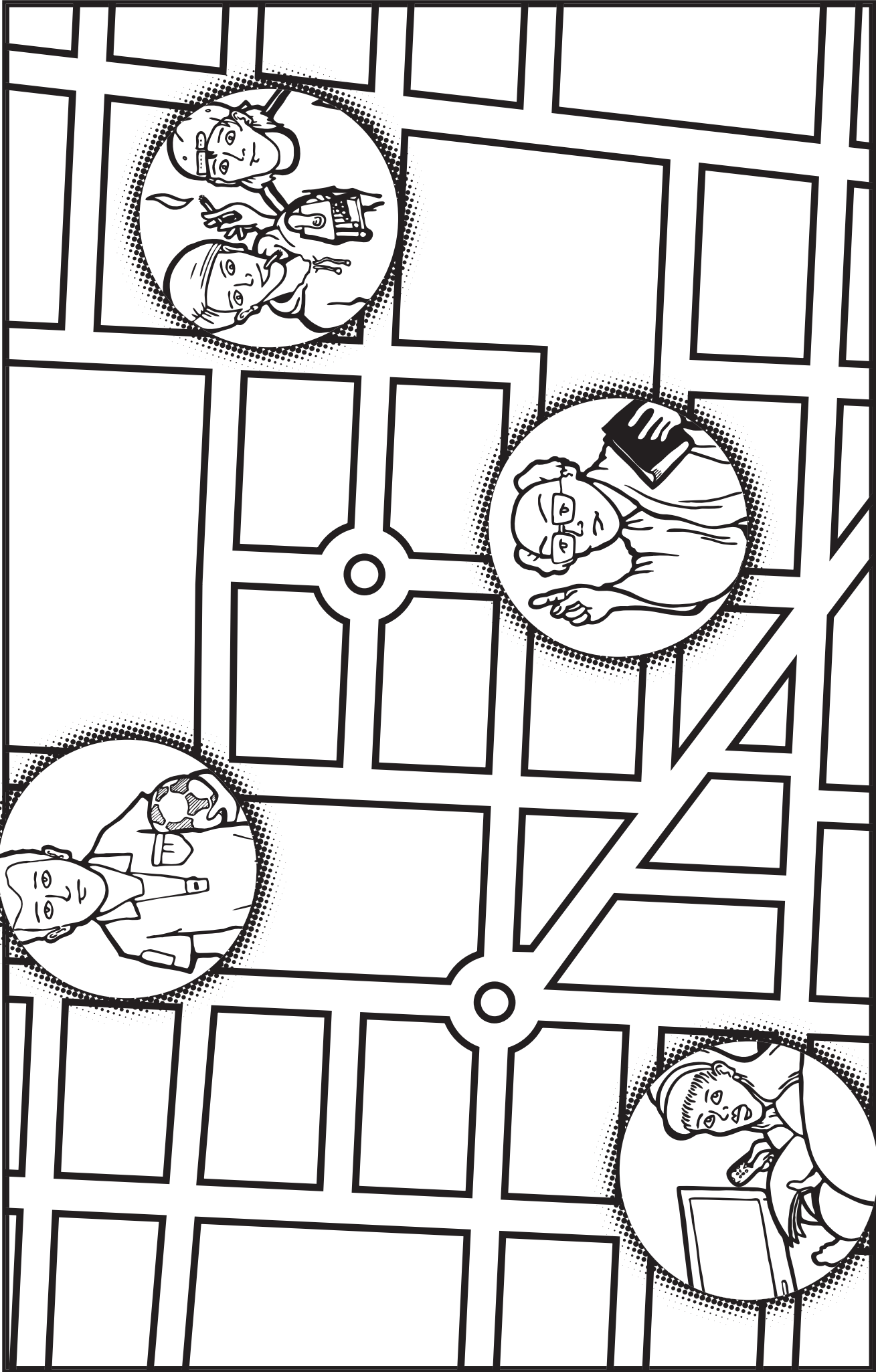
ENDURANCE

2 Tim. 4:7-8

REWARD

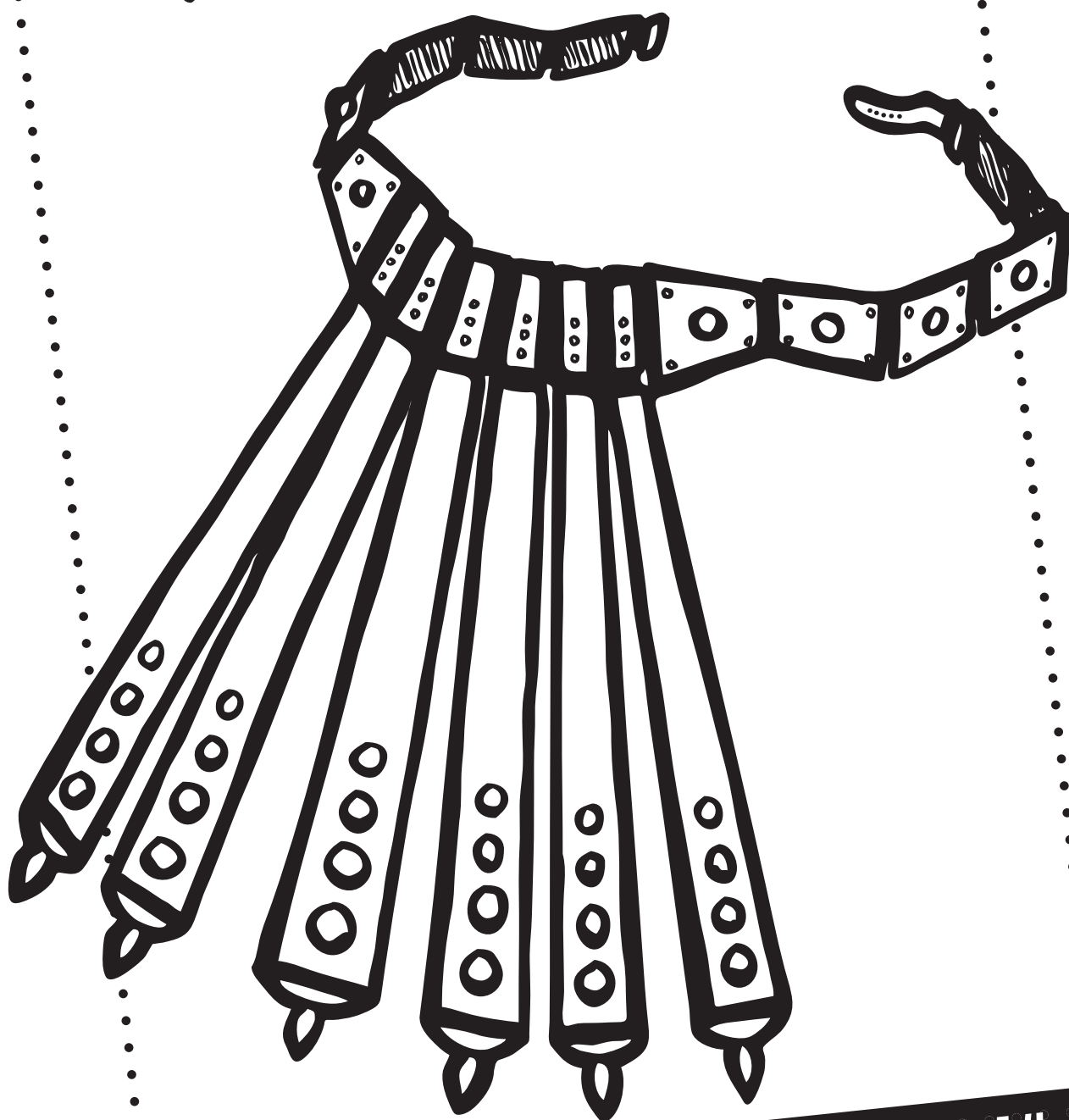
Eph. 6:10-18

ARMOUR





The Girdle of Truth

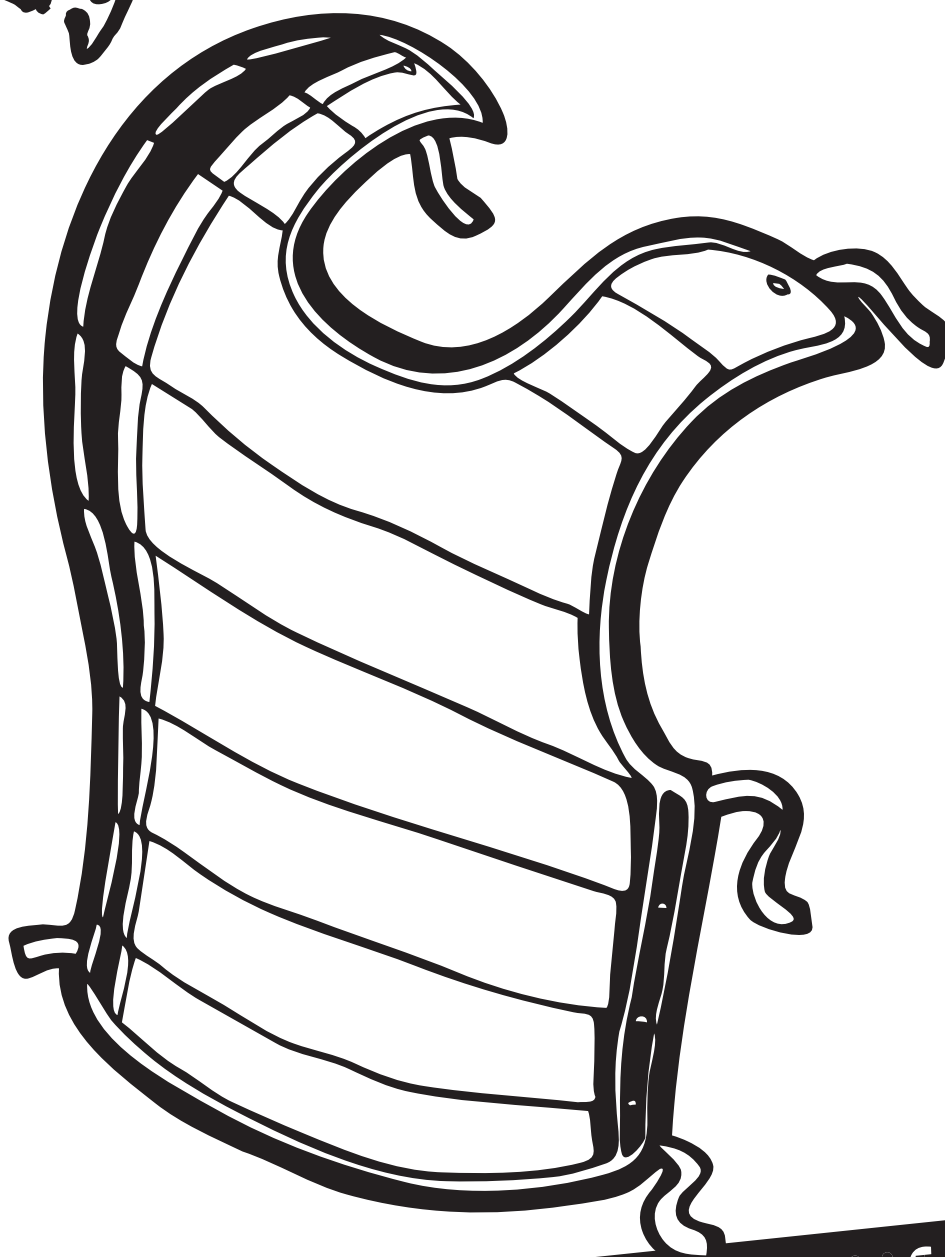


Ephesians 6:14





The Breastplate of Righteousness



Ephesians 6:14

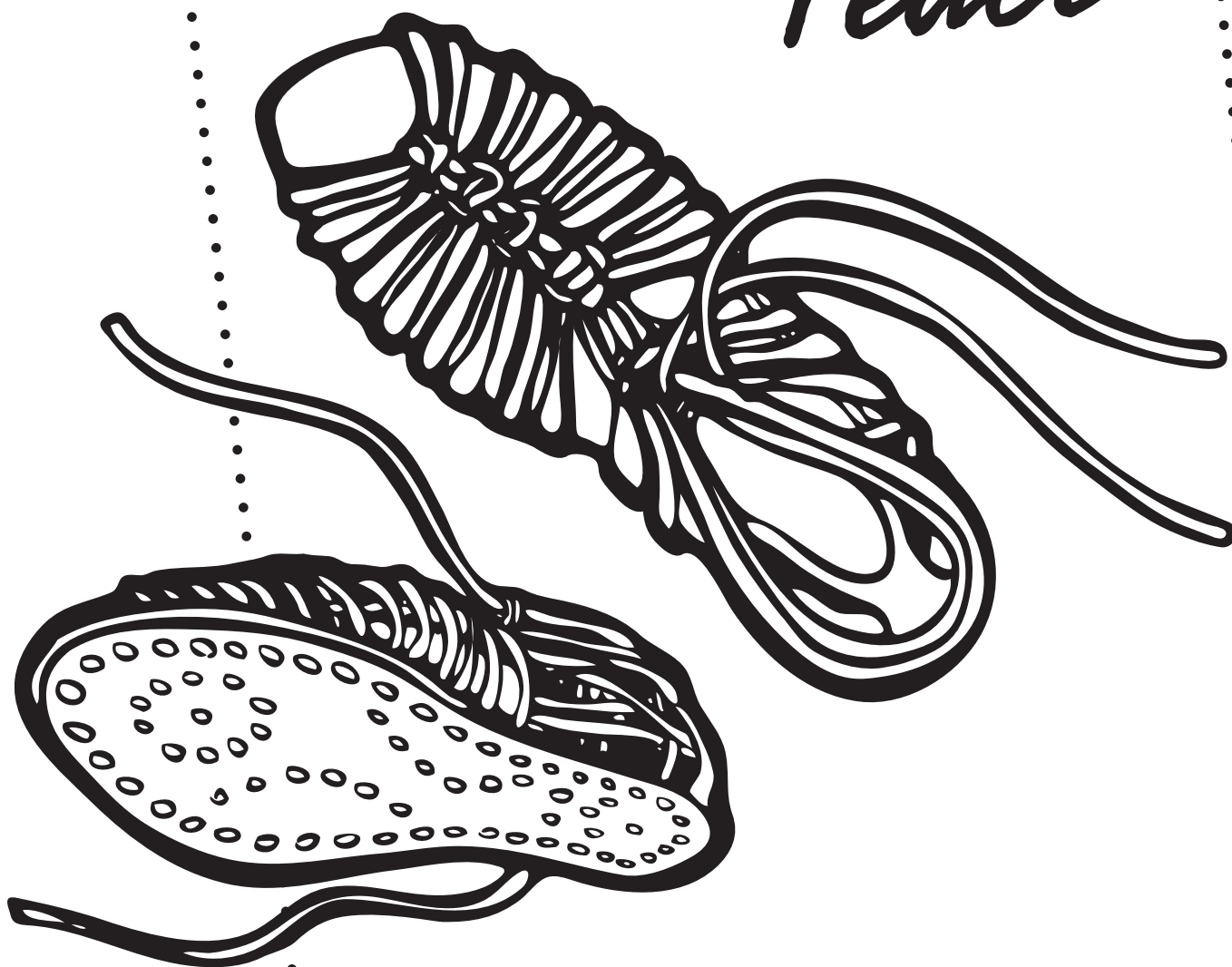
School of the Law		Report Card
Pupil Name:		
	Subject	Grade
1.	Commandment 1	
2.	Commandment 2	
3.	Commandment 3	
4.	Commandment 4	
5.	Commandment 5	
6.	Commandment 6	
7.	Commandment 7	
8.	Commandment 8	
9.	Commandment 9	
10.	Commandment 10	
		Average



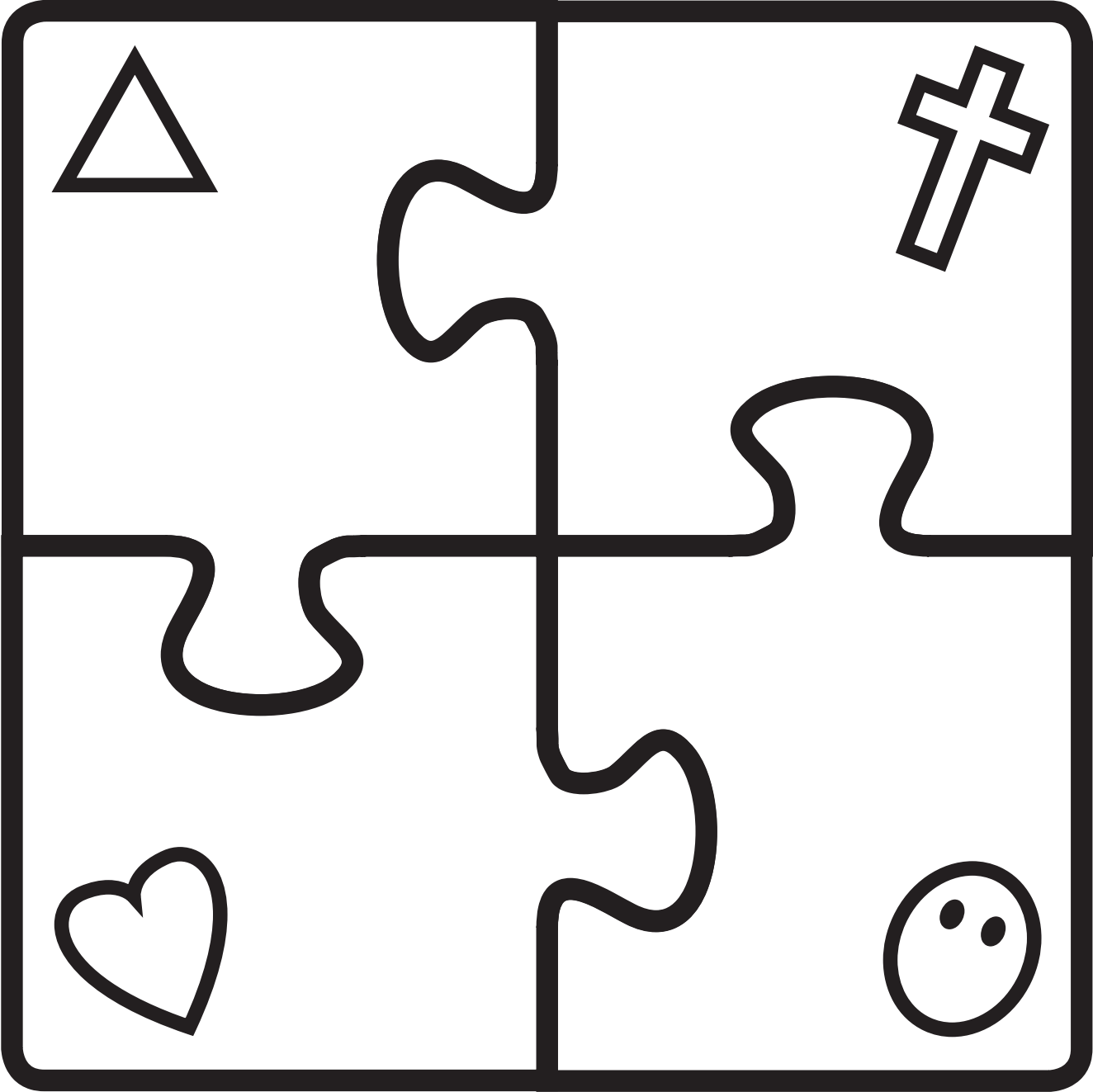




*The
Shoes
of the
Gospel
of Peace*

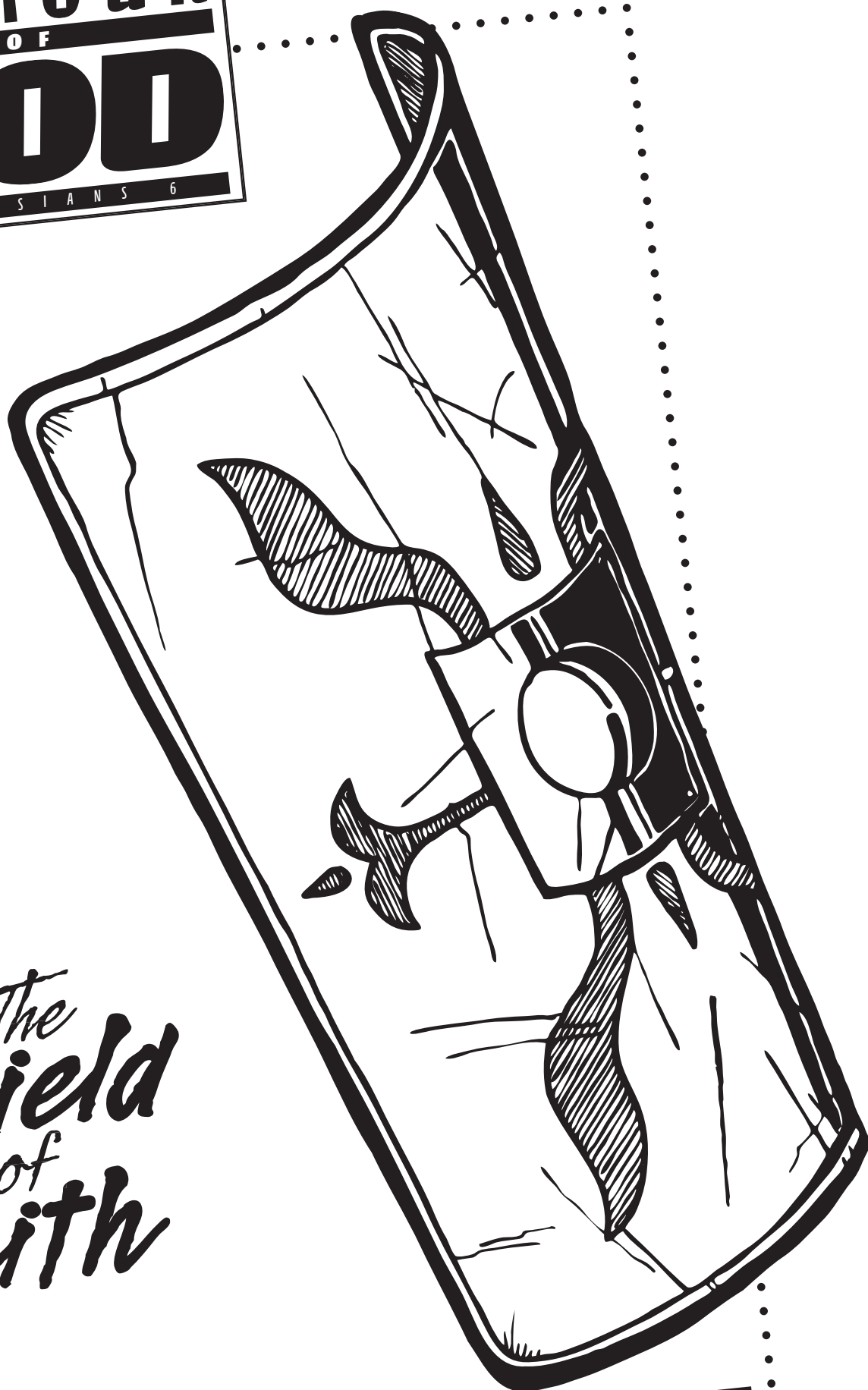


Ephesians 6:15





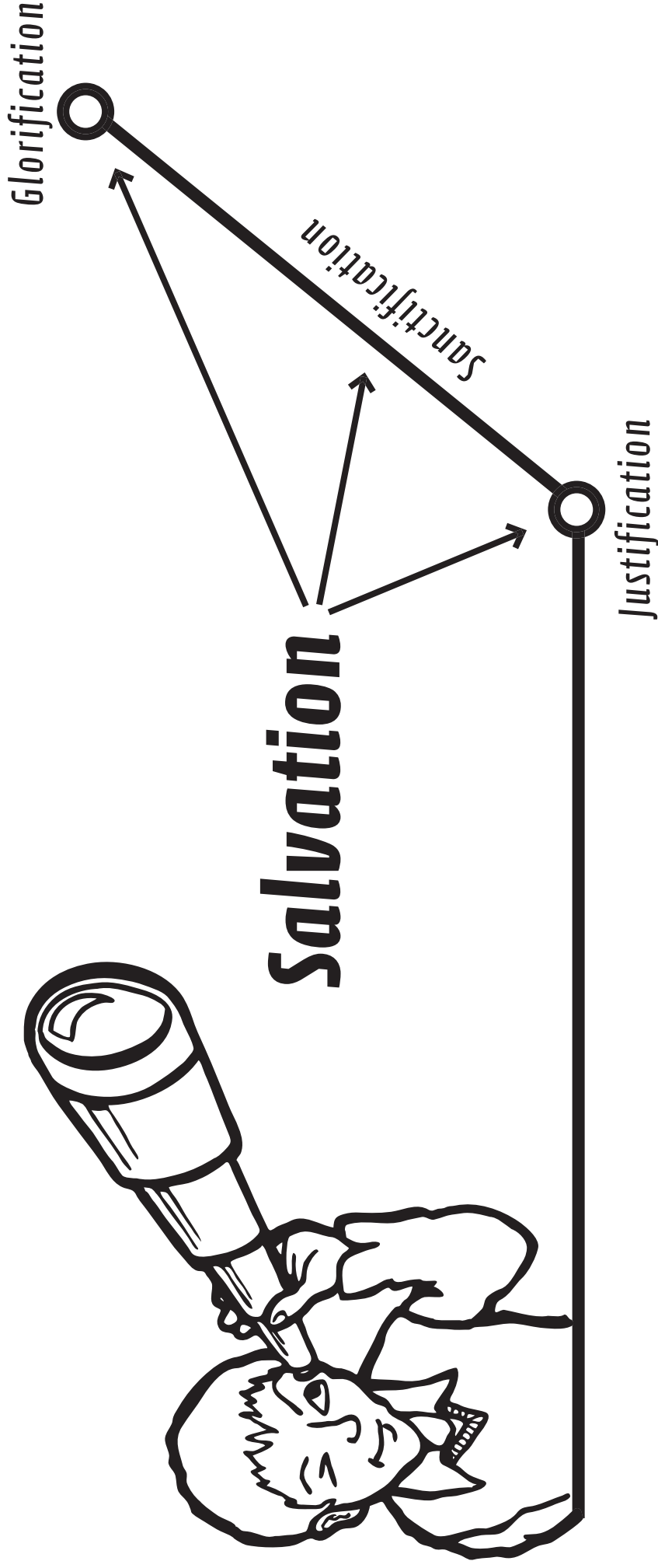
THE
ARMOUR
OF
GOD
EPHESIANS 6



The
Shield
of
Faith

Ephesians 6:16



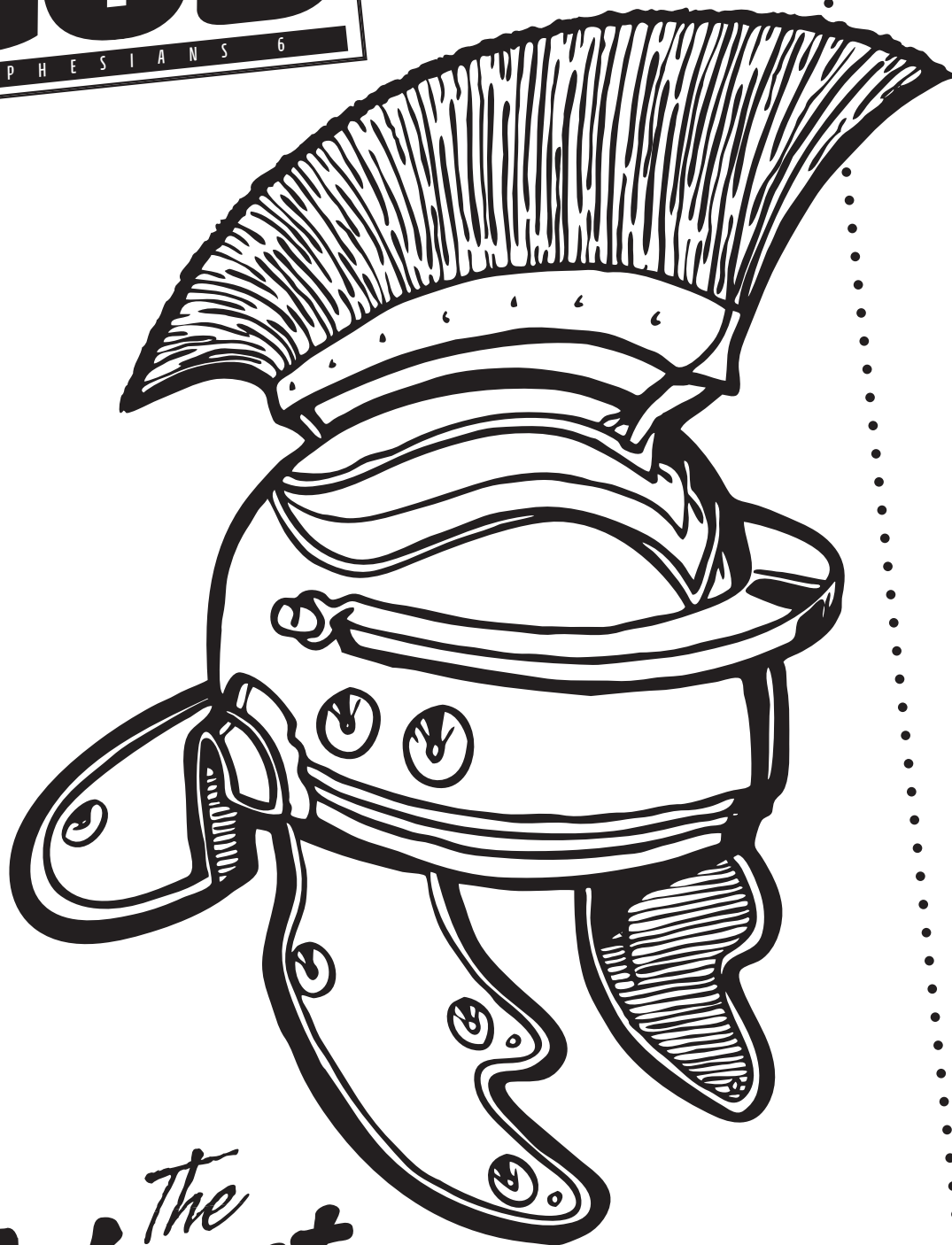


Justification: God sets us free from the **penalty** of sin.

Sanctification: God sets us free from the **power** of sin.

Glorification: God sets us free from the **presence** of sin.

THE
ARMOUR
OF
GOD
EPHESIANS 6



The
Helmet
of
Salvation

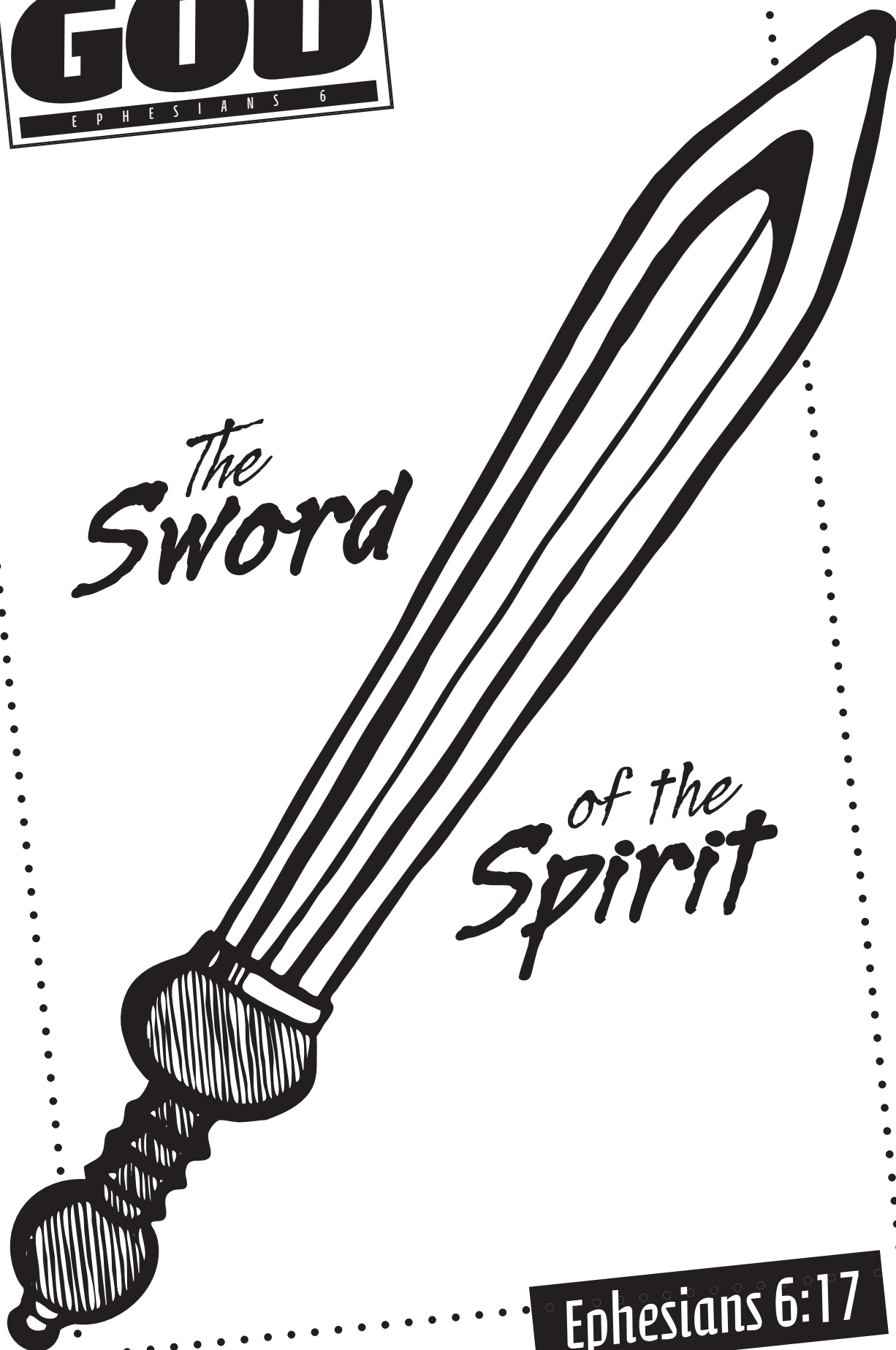
Ephesians 6:17





*The
Sword*

*of the
Spirit*



Ephesians 6:17



The Holy Spirit:

Inspired the Word

Helps us understand the Word

Never contradicts the Word

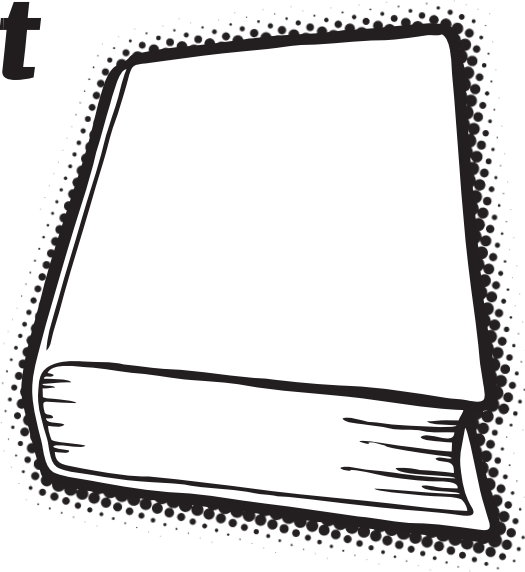
Helps us use the Word

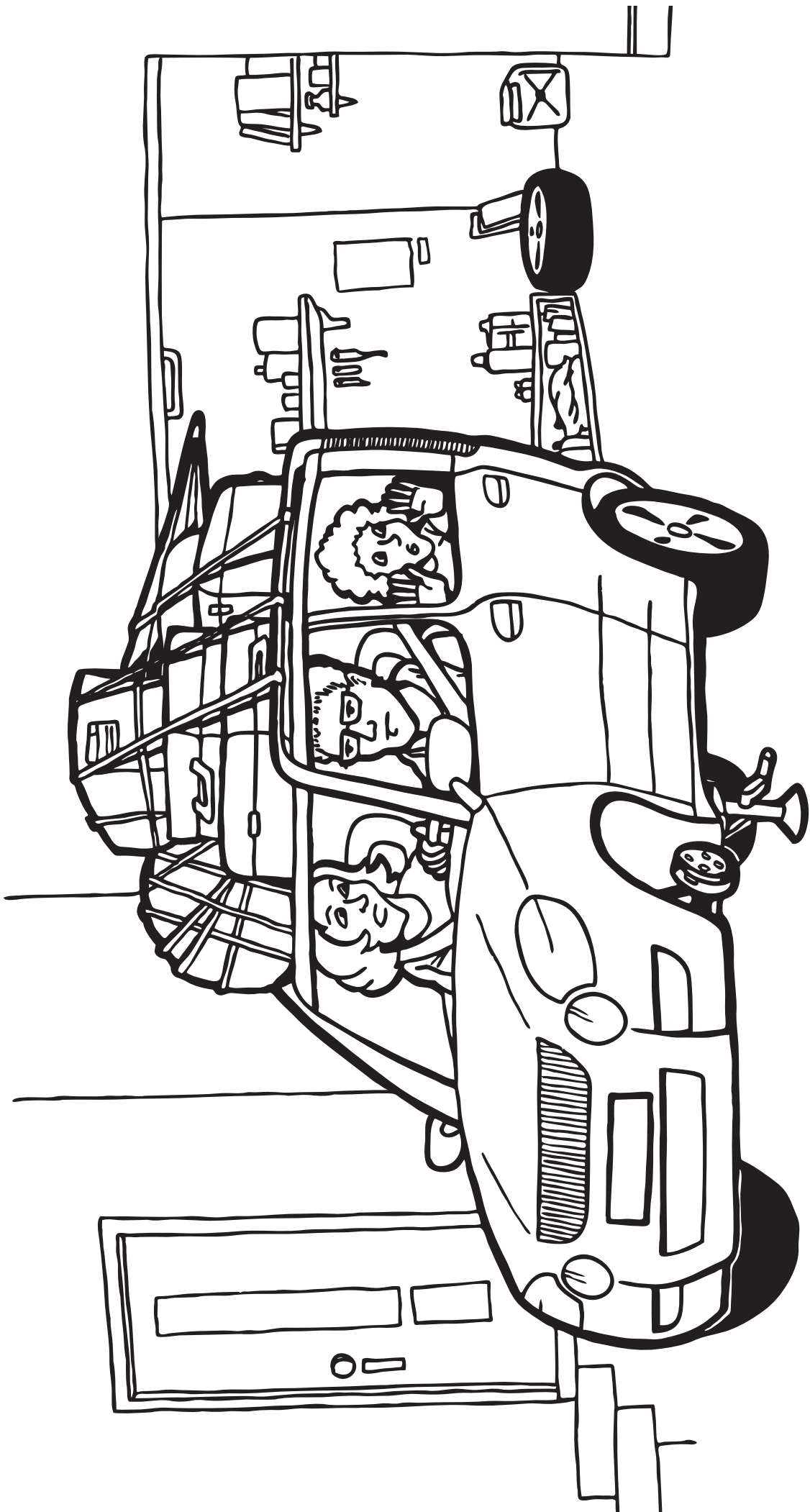
Read it

Obey it

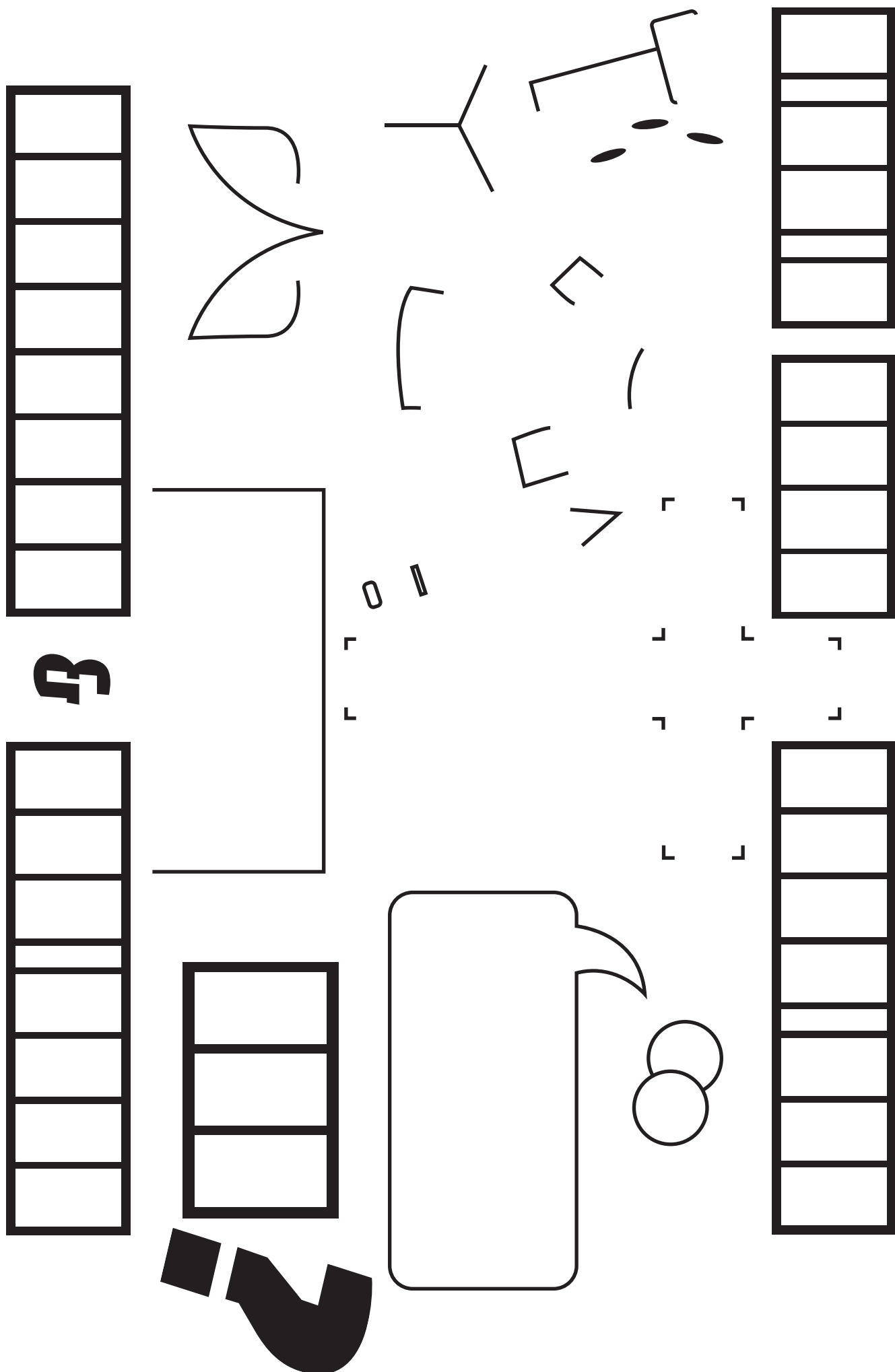
Share it

Fight with it

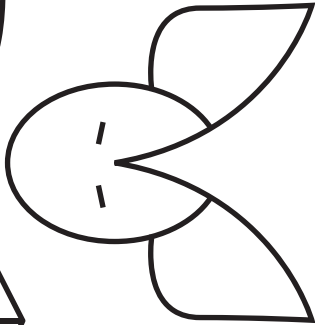
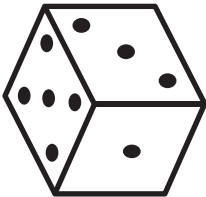
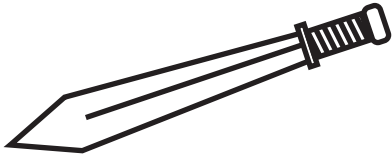
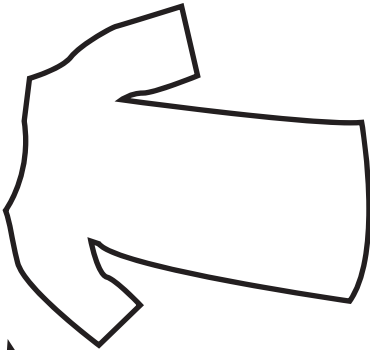
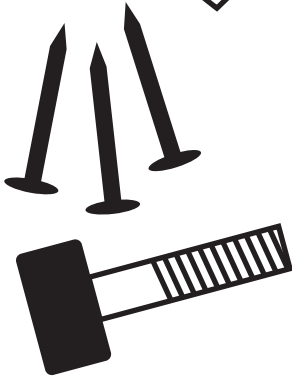
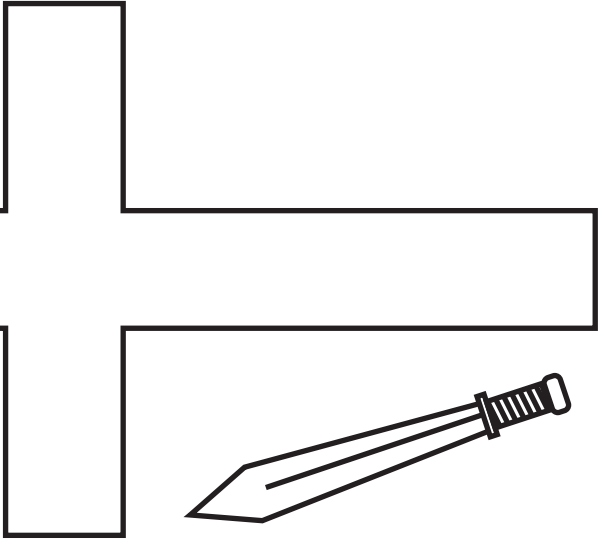






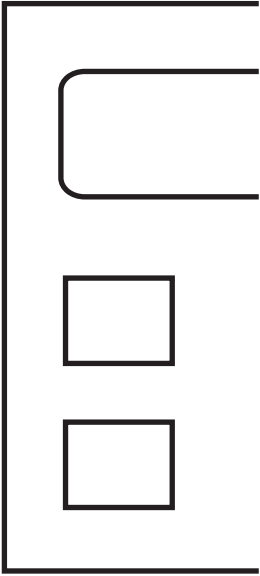


DIDN'T CARE REALISED

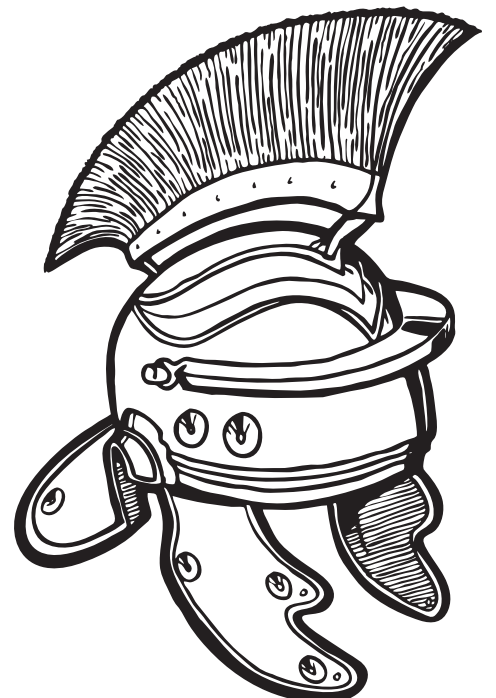
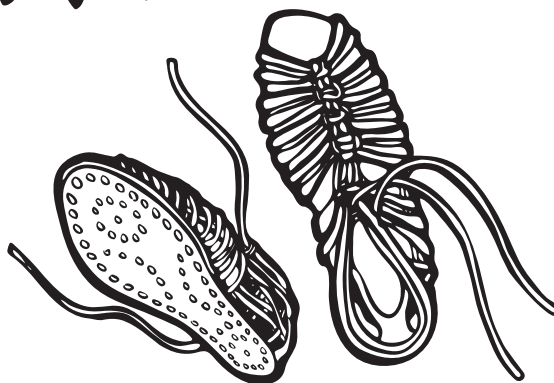
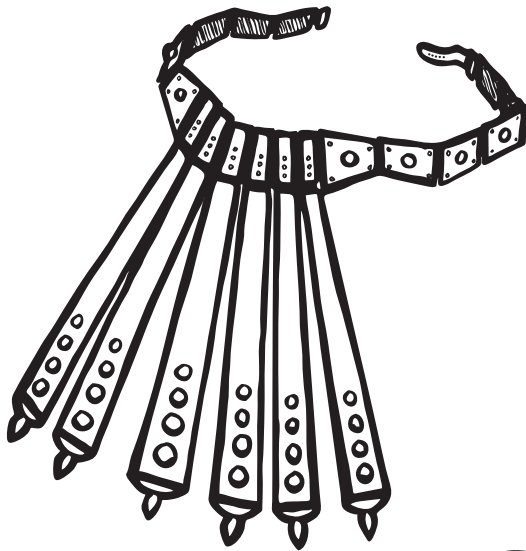
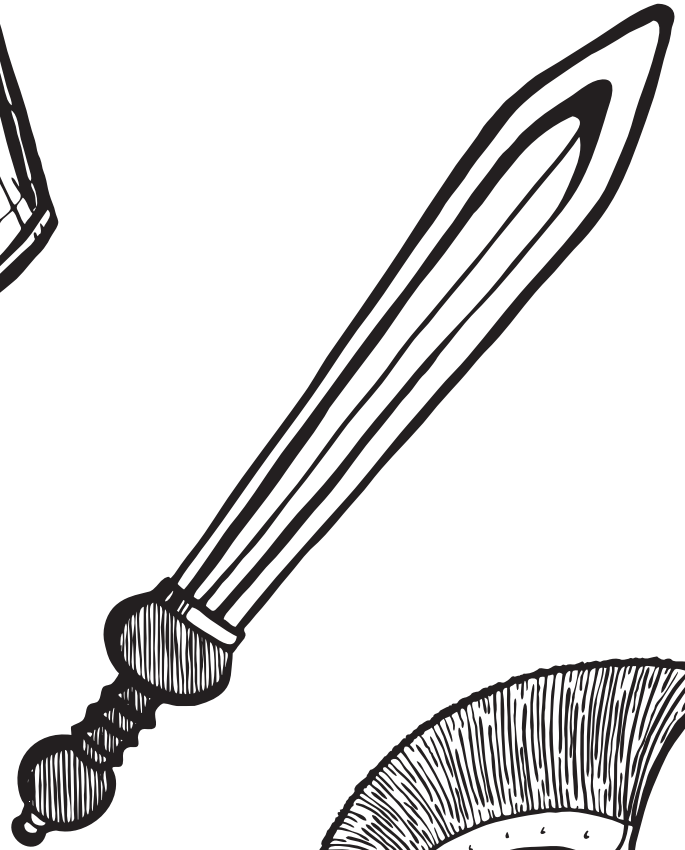
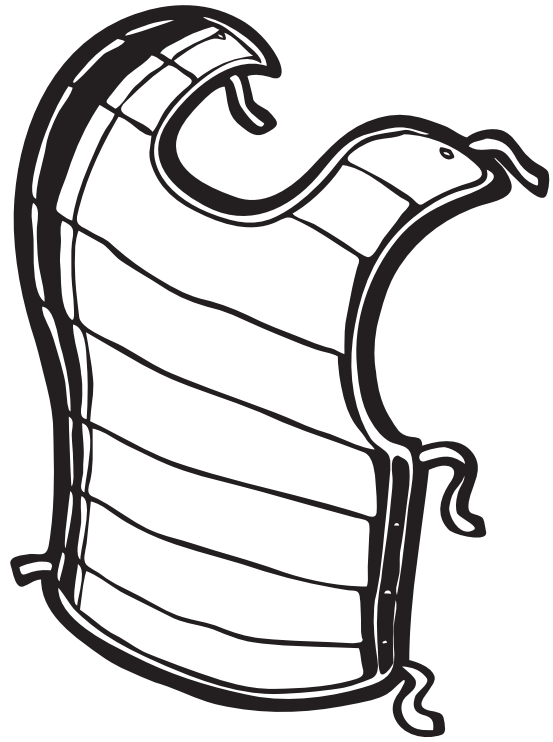


Truly this Man was
the Son of God!

YOU?



SEARCHED & BELIEVED



Truth	<i>Believe the true Word of God and live according to it, like the Lord Jesus</i>
Righteousness	<i>Know that I am safe in Christ despite Satan's accusations</i>
Peace	<i>Preach the Gospel so many may be reconciled to God</i>
Faith	<i>Remember Who God is, trust Him and rely on His promises</i>
Salvation	<i>Keep your focus on the final day of salvation and not on the present</i>
Spirit	<i>Memorise key verses and rely on them in battle</i>

Handouts

Appendix

2

Angels' missions

2 Kings
19:35

Psalms
91:11-13

Luke
1:35

1.
Deliver or
protect
God's
people

2.
Proclaim
a message
from God

3.
Apply
God's
judgement

Acts
12:5-11

Matthew
28:5-6

2 Kings
19:35

Psalms
91:11-13

Luke
1:35

1.
Deliver or
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3.
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God's
judgement

Acts
12:5-11

Matthew
28:5-6

Angels' missions



Running 4 Clues

Clue Sheet

Follow the cards on the wall in the right order. Fill in the answers below.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____



Running 4 Clues

Clue Sheet

Follow the cards on the wall in the right order. Fill in the answers below.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

Case Study

Story from Ken Davis

Debbie's friends had decided to go and have a drink after the football match. Although Debbie was not the sort of girl to stay out late at night, she didn't want her friends to think she wasn't "with it", so she went along. On a deserted country road they got drunk on black cherry wine and cognac. Then someone suggested playing "chicken". You probably know this crazy game: two cars must run towards each other at very high speed. The first driver to turn aside is a chicken and he loses. That evening, no-one turned aside. In the terrible accident that followed all Debbie's friends were killed, and she was disfigured and maimed for life. Tears ran down her cheeks as she told me how much she would have liked to leave the party. Several times during the evening she had wanted to ask someone to bring her home, but she was afraid of what her friends would think of her. Even once the game had started, although she was terrified, she just couldn't pluck up the courage to simply ask to get out of the car. Just think of how powerful peer pressure can be. The cars had just missed each other twice before finally crashing against each other. Debbie could see her life was in danger; she had had several opportunities to get out. But still she chose to risk her life rather than risk losing her friends. The sad thing is that most of the young people in those cars probably didn't want to be there either. But they were also afraid of standing out. When they chose not to say anything they signed their own death sentence. They weren't bad young people – they were friendly kids who gave in to peer pressure and made the wrong choice."

1. What was her first mistake?

2. Why didn't she ask to get out?

3. If she had refused to join in, what could have happened?

4. What kind of girl was Debbie?

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Story from Ken Davis

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C	B	Z	R	E	S	U	L	T	S	D	B	H	R
N	L	C	G	P	G	L	Z	Q	E	R	X	I	D
E	I	R	L	O	E	V	G	V	H	L	G	D	O
V	N	G	O	P	I	O	I	N	C	U	L	E	C
I	D	D	H	U	E	T	A	C	T	I	C	S	E
T	S	I	Z	L	C	M	X	P	A	N	G	E	R
P	P	O	M	A	Y	D	I	R	N	M	L	M	K
A	A	H	R	R	W	H	L	T	S	L	G	A	N
C	R	T	N	I	E	X	C	I	T	I	N	G	Y
B	T	D	E	T	A	E	F	E	D	B	L	L	U
A	H	R	X	Y	L	S	R	E	F	F	O	N	A

**All the words below in boxes or in bold type are in the puzzle above.
Fill in the blanks, then find and circle the words in the word square.**

Some of Satan's **tactics**: He the minds of unbelievers

He away the Word of God

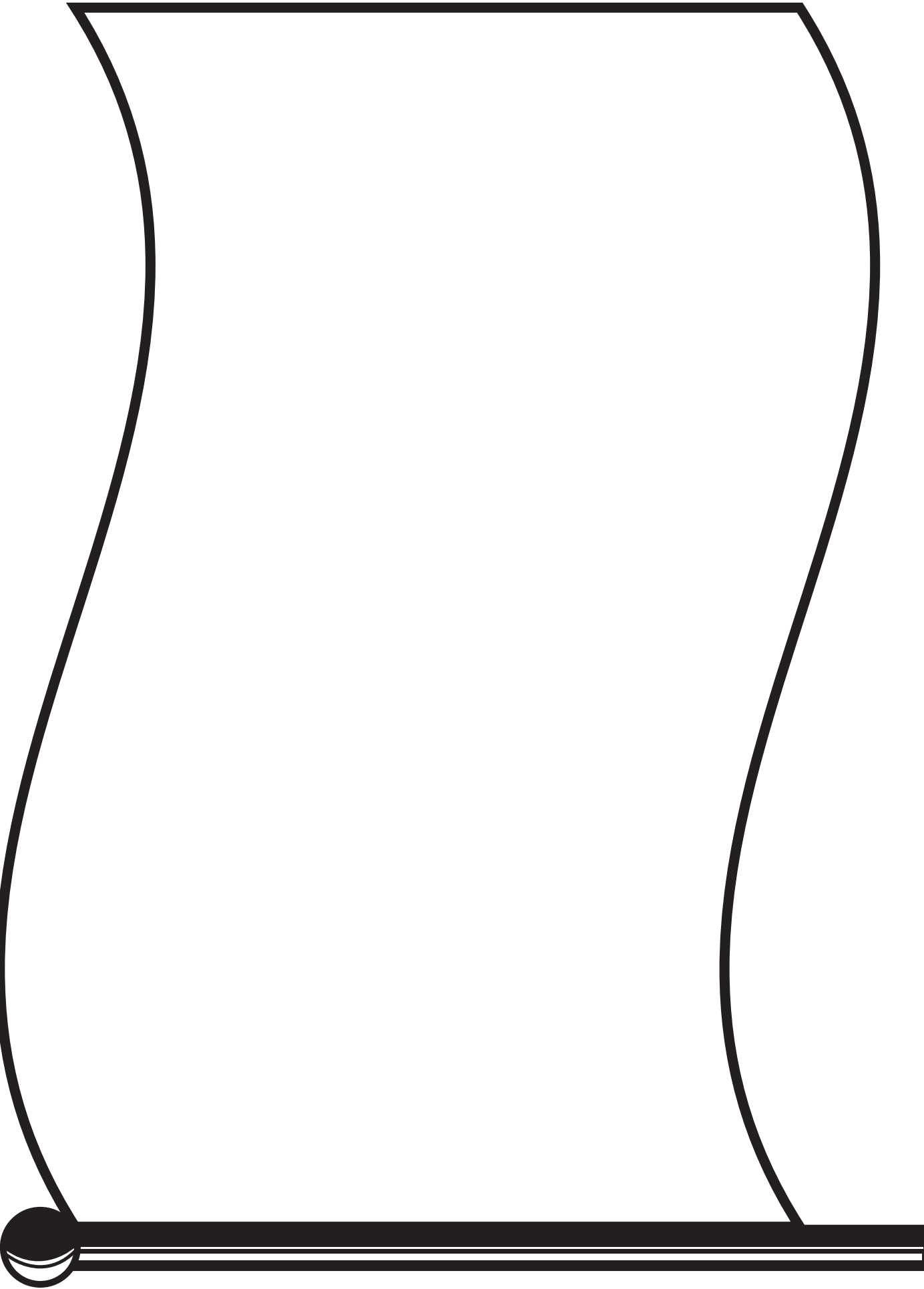
He keeps people

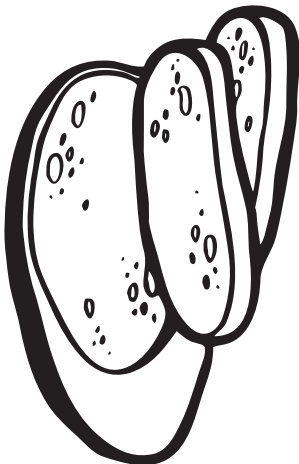
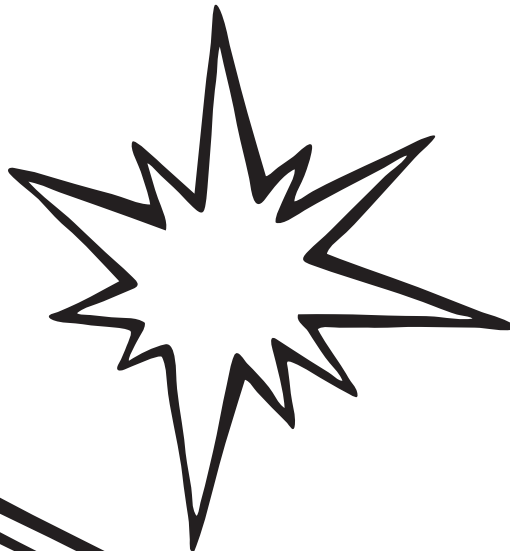
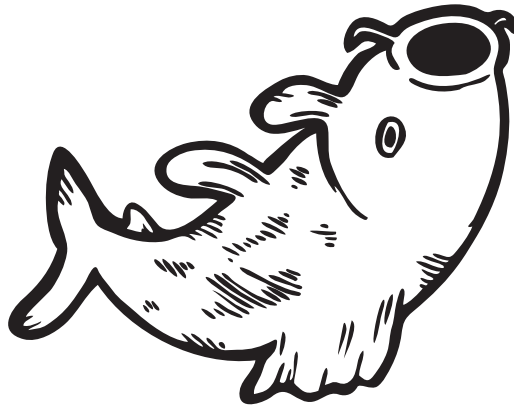
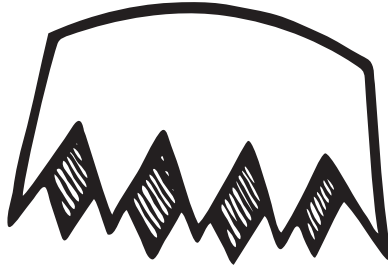
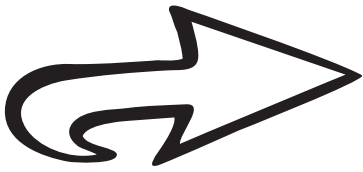
What he **offers**: sin

experiences

He is a and **hides** the of sin

He is !





Sketch 1

School:

In class the teacher presents evolution as the best explanation to the origins of man. He even says, "Only some Christians refuse to admit this evidence. I hope no-one here is a creationist!" One Christian decides to speak up ...

Sketch 2

Sports Field:

The team needs to win this last game of the season. But at half-time, they are two goals behind. The opposite team has a brilliant player who just seems impossible to stop. Some players suggest injuring him. It seems to them the only way! But a Christian disapproves ...

Sketch 3

Home:

Two brothers have been playing video games for two hours when Mum comes back. "I hope you haven't played too long. If you had more than an hour, I want you to stop. OK?" One of them declares, "But Mum, we've just started!" The other one is a Christian and reacts differently ...

Sketch 4

Church:

The Church service is over and young people are talking together outside. One says how boring the sermon was. Another one finds the songs old-fashioned. A third one tells a story he heard about one of the elders. But one teen realises that this attitude is not good and tries to encourage the others to stop ...



Joining the Army

What do I know about Jesus the Commander?

Matthew 1:21

His _____

Acts 10:38

His _____

1 Peter 2:24

His _____

Matthew 28:6

His _____

How can I join His army?

Romans 3:23

Acts 3:19

Acts 16:31

What is involved in being a soldier for Him?

2 Peter 3:18

1 John 2:3

Are you in God's army?

Don't write your answer, instead, think seriously about what the Lord Jesus has done for you. Have you trusted Him? The answer is either "yes" or "no". Make sure it is "yes"!

What do I need as a Christian soldier?

1 Timothy 6:12

F _____

2 Timothy 2:3

E _____

2 Timothy 4:7

R _____

Ephesians 6:10-18

A _____

What places can be battlefields for me?

coolhs _____

pfdrostslie _____

mohe _____

cchhru _____



What is my mission as a soldier for God?

1 Peter 5:8-9 _____

Romans 10:9 _____

Romans 12:2 _____

TRUE *or* FALSE?

Are these statements true or false? Check the references to find out.

T F

- | | |
|---|------------------------|
| ☐ ☐ God loves everyone – He would not send people to Hell | Romans 6:23 |
| ☐ ☐ If the Lord Jesus was a real person, He must have sinned | Hebrews 4:15 |
| ☐ ☐ This world was formed through a process of evolution | Genesis 1:1 |
| ☐ ☐ The Lord Jesus had a real body after He arose from the dead | Luke 24:37-39 |
| ☐ ☐ If I live a good life, God will allow me into Heaven | Ephesians 2:8-9 |

Case Study

"I am on my way, Mum!" says Brian, 14, as he goes through the door.

"Where are you going, Brian?" his mother asks.

Brian's answer is well prepared like on every Saturday night.

"Don't worry Mum, I am going to the cinema with friends from church."

His mother trusts him as she usually does. But Brian heads for somewhere else. Every Saturday friends from school meet on the supermarket's parking lot near the river and they race with their mopeds. Brian doesn't have one yet but he loves watching the races. If you would ask him if he minds hiding from his mother what he is doing, he would say, "No, I think it is the best way! If I tell her, she might not let me go. Or, if she would let me go, she would worry all evening. For her sake and my sake, it is better. I am just watching the others race – nothing bad!"

- 1.** Did Brian convince you that his lie is a good one? Explain why.
- 2.** How might this story end up one day? Think about all the consequences.
- 3.** Can you think of other situations in life in which we are tempted to lie?
- 4.** If a Christian lies, how will this affect his testimony?
- 5.** Why does God command us always to speak the truth?
- 6.** If you struggle with lying, how could you put on the girdle of truth?

Breastplate of David

	Sin	Consequences	Confession	Restoration
David	2 Samuel 11:1-4, 14-15	2 Samuel 12:7-12	Psalms 51:1-4	2 Sam. 12:13-14, 18, 24-25
Peter	Luke 22:54-60	Luke 22:61	Luke 22:62	John 21:15-17



The Breastplate of Righteousness

Word Scramble

Unscramble the words below and fit them into the spaces

asihcrtin _____

ntaas _____

ssogenod _____

vdesa _____

whso _____

ilfe _____

aifht _____

nis _____

ctoucna _____

rstbealapet _____

obdtu _____

shsnrtiegoues _____

The _____ of _____ is the perfect

_____ of the Lord Jesus which is credited to your _____

of _____ when you put your _____ in Christ. When God looks at

a _____ He sees the perfect goodness of the Lord Jesus. The Christian

should then _____ Christ's righteousness in his or her _____.

When _____ tries to make them _____ if they are really

_____, Christians must remember that Christ is their

righteousness. The question is, "Have you put your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ?"



The Shoes of the Gospel of Peace

Use the symbols to discover the words. When you find them all, fill in the blanks below.



The _____ of the _____ of _____ are the
 _____ God has provided to help the _____ stand firm
 against the _____. The Gospel of peace is the good news of _____.
 Jesus died to take the _____ for _____ but three days later He
 _____ from the dead. He is alive today and is able to _____
 you, if you will _____ from sin and _____ in Him. Those who
 are _____ have peace with God and will _____ be punished for
 their sin. They are _____, which means that the perfect
 _____ of Jesus is credited to their _____ of sin.

Case Study

- “My name is Andrew. I have been looking for a part-time job. Mr Williams at the local petrol station promised to give me a job, but now he has given it to someone else instead. I feel so angry and bitter. I know as a Christian I should not feel this way, but I cannot get these wrong feelings towards Mr Williams out of my mind.”
- “My name is Susan. My mother has not been feeling well. Next week she has to go to hospital for tests. I am so worried. I have tried to pray but I can think about nothing else, and feel really afraid.”
- “My name is James. I feel so useless. I worked hard for my exam but failed it while all my friends did really well. My friends have tried to encourage me, but it is no use. I feel really sorry for myself.”
- “My name is Heather. It is Saturday night and I am at home on my own. My friends have gone to the cinema. They asked me to come with them, but I know that the film they have chosen is not the type that I as a Christian should be watching. My friends laughed at me when I refused to go. I know I have done the right thing but now I am feeling very lonely.”

Case Study

- “My name is Andrew. I have been looking for a part-time job. Mr Williams at the local petrol station promised to give me a job, but now he has given it to someone else instead. I feel so angry and bitter. I know as a Christian I should not feel this way, but I cannot get these wrong feelings towards Mr Williams out of my mind.”
- “My name is Susan. My mother has not been feeling well. Next week she has to go to hospital for tests. I am so worried. I have tried to pray but I can think about nothing else, and feel really afraid.”
- “My name is James. I feel so useless. I worked hard for my exam but failed it while all my friends did really well. My friends have tried to encourage me, but it is no use. I feel really sorry for myself.”
- “My name is Heather. It is Saturday night and I am at home on my own. My friends have gone to the cinema. They asked me to come with them, but I know that the film they have chosen is not the type that I as a Christian should be watching. My friends laughed at me when I refused to go. I know I have done the right thing but now I am feeling very lonely.”

The Shield of Faith

wordsearch



A	T	T	W	O	C	H	R	O	W	I	T
C	K	A	R	R	A	G	R	A	E	D	C
C	T	S	R	D	D	E	T	T	F	T	A
A	T	W	O	D	U	O	D	D	E	G	F
E	R	F	D	U	S	H	O	U	L	R	I
H	T	A	Y	T	D	I	D	B	T	A	C
H	C	R	E	I	L	E	P	U	L	I	T
R	I	P	R	A	A	R	U	O	D	R	E
I	T	S	U	D	T	S	B	T	S	O	P
C	C	N	E	D	A	I	S	A	R	N	E
T	A	C	A	G	C	R	T	R	E	P	R
P	I	T	A	R	A	H	C	H	R	S	O

Find ten more words mentioned in the study on “the shield of faith”. They are not in a straight line but in the shape of a shield as the example. The shield may be up straight or on its side and the letters may be clockwise or anticlockwise. Six words are supplied, but only the first and last letters of the other four! All have six letters.

ARROWS SUDDEN TACTIC DEFEAT FATHER CHRIST

A _ _ _ _ K P _ _ _ _ N T _ _ _ _ T D _ _ _ _ S

TEST YOUR MIND



Think about how your mind would react in the following situations. What would be the first thought that would cross your mind? And what would be second after a couple of minutes' reflection? Be honest. This little test is confidential – no-one else will see it.

1 A friend bought himself something great and very expensive, e.g. a top class mobile phone ...

- A. I am so glad for him!
- B. I need one too!
- C. I prefer to use my money in a way that pleases God!
- D. I could ask my parents to buy me one!
- E. I don't need such a good one!

My first thought would be:



= ____ pts

My second thought would be:



= ____ pts

2 You heard that your school teacher broke his leg and will be off for some time ...

- A. I will probably have no classes tomorrow, hurray!
- B. I would like to find a way to encourage him!
- C. I think he got what he deserved!
- D. I wouldn't like this to happen to me!
- E. I should pray for him!

My first thought would be:



= ____ pts

My second thought would be:



= ____ pts

3 An evangelistic outing is organised for next Saturday and you are asked to please take part ...

- A. I will gladly go!
- B. I wouldn't mind getting sick!
- C. I need to phone my friends and check who is going!
- D. I believe God can use me!
- E. I hope the weather will be good!

My first thought would be:



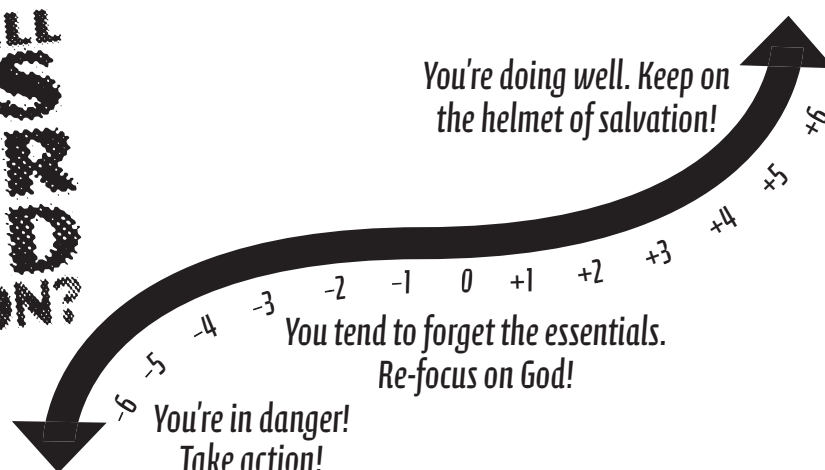
= ____ pts

My second thought would be:



= ____ pts

HOW WELL DOES YOUR MIND FUNCTION?



The Christians' enemy

Book where we read about the armour of God

The diagram consists of six rows of shapes. Row 1 has 12 squares followed by 1 circle. Row 2 has 6 squares followed by 1 circle. Row 3 has 6 squares followed by 1 circle. Row 4 has 4 squares followed by 1 circle. Row 5 has 5 squares followed by 1 circle. Row 6 has 1 circle followed by 5 squares.

How we should feel when we sin

What Satan wants to make us do



Fight with the Sword of the Spirit

Matthew 4

Satan tempted Jesus	Jesus quoted scripture
"If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread."	"Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God." (Deuteronomy 8:3)
"If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written: 'He shall give His angels charge over you ...'"	"You shall not tempt the Lord your God." (Deuteronomy 6:16)
"All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me."	"You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve." (Deuteronomy 6:13, 10:20)

In my life

Satan tempts me	I can quote Scripture
Just tell your teacher a lie; you will be out of trouble!	
Have a try; taking some won't make you a drug addict!	
Stay at home today, don't bother going to church!	

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

James 1:12

Romans 12:2

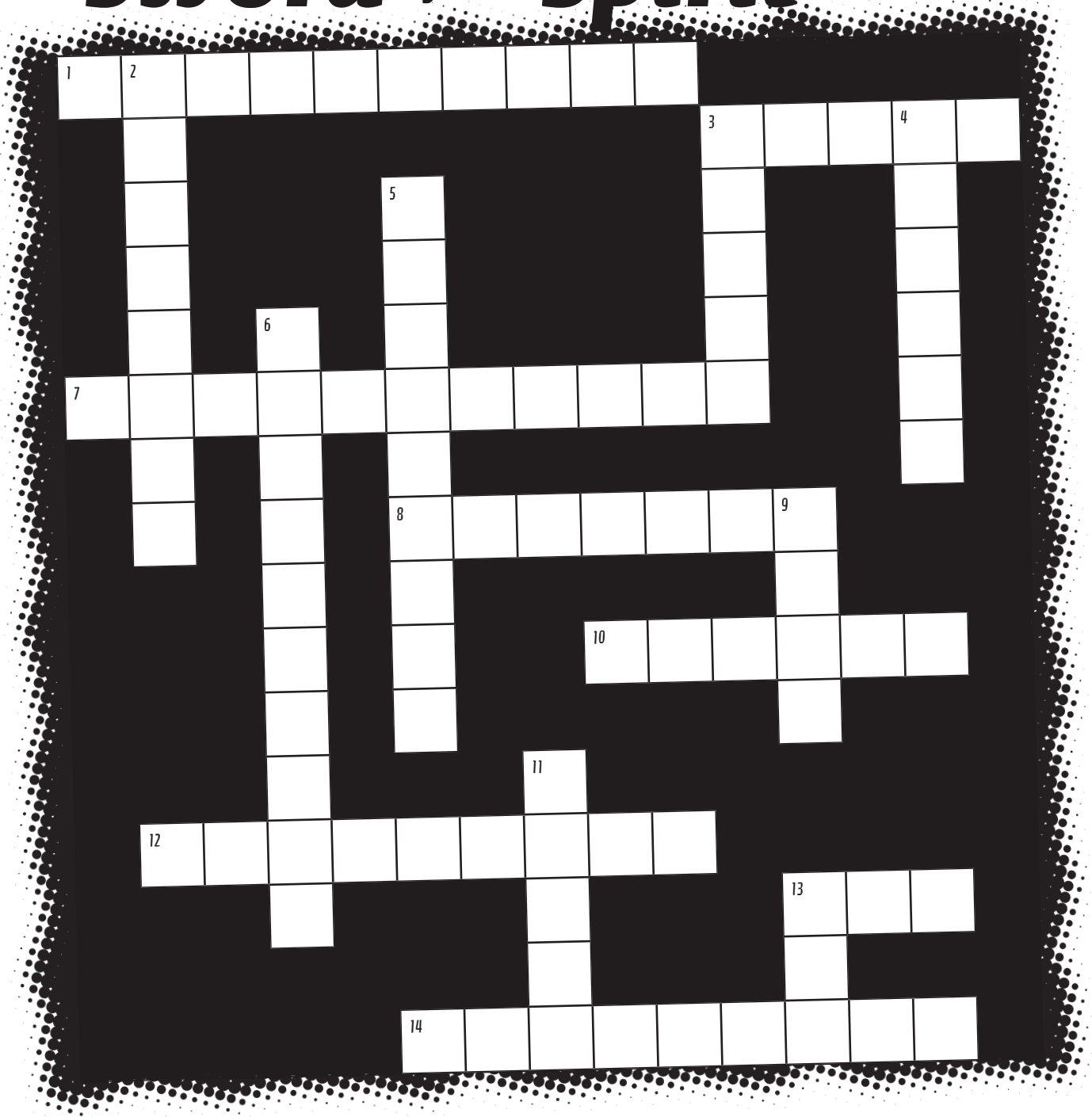
1 John 1:9

Proverbs 12:22

1 Timothy 6:20

Hebrews 10:24-25

the **Sword** of the *Spirit*



Across

- 1** Telling others about Jesus
- 3** The one Christians must fight against
- 7** The Sword of the Spirit is one part of it
- 8** One who uses armour
- 10** The opposite of defence
- 12** When we read the Bible and pray
- 13** Chapter of Ephesians where the armour is found
- 14** Doing what God's Word says

Down

- 2** What God's Word is: 2 Timothy 3:16
- 3** Weapon which reminds us of the Bible
- 4** Someone who writes a book
- 5** Jesus answered them from God's Word: John 10:34
- 6** The One Who inspired the Bible
- 9** What we should do with God's Word each day
- 11** God's inspired Word
- 13** What Satan wants to make us do

DAILY PROGRAMME

5:00

5:30

6:00

6:30

7:00

7:30

8:00

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9:00

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10:00

10:30

11:00

11:30



AMAZING ways God deals with confessed sins

Micah 7:19

Red turned into white snow.

Psalms 103:12

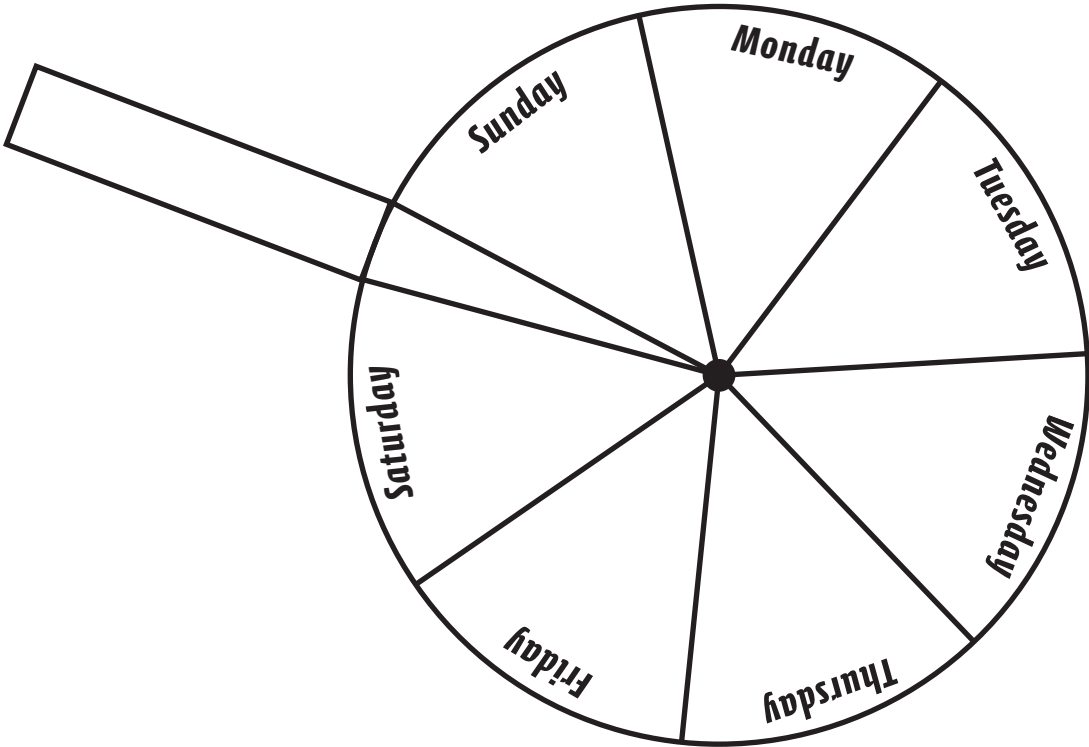
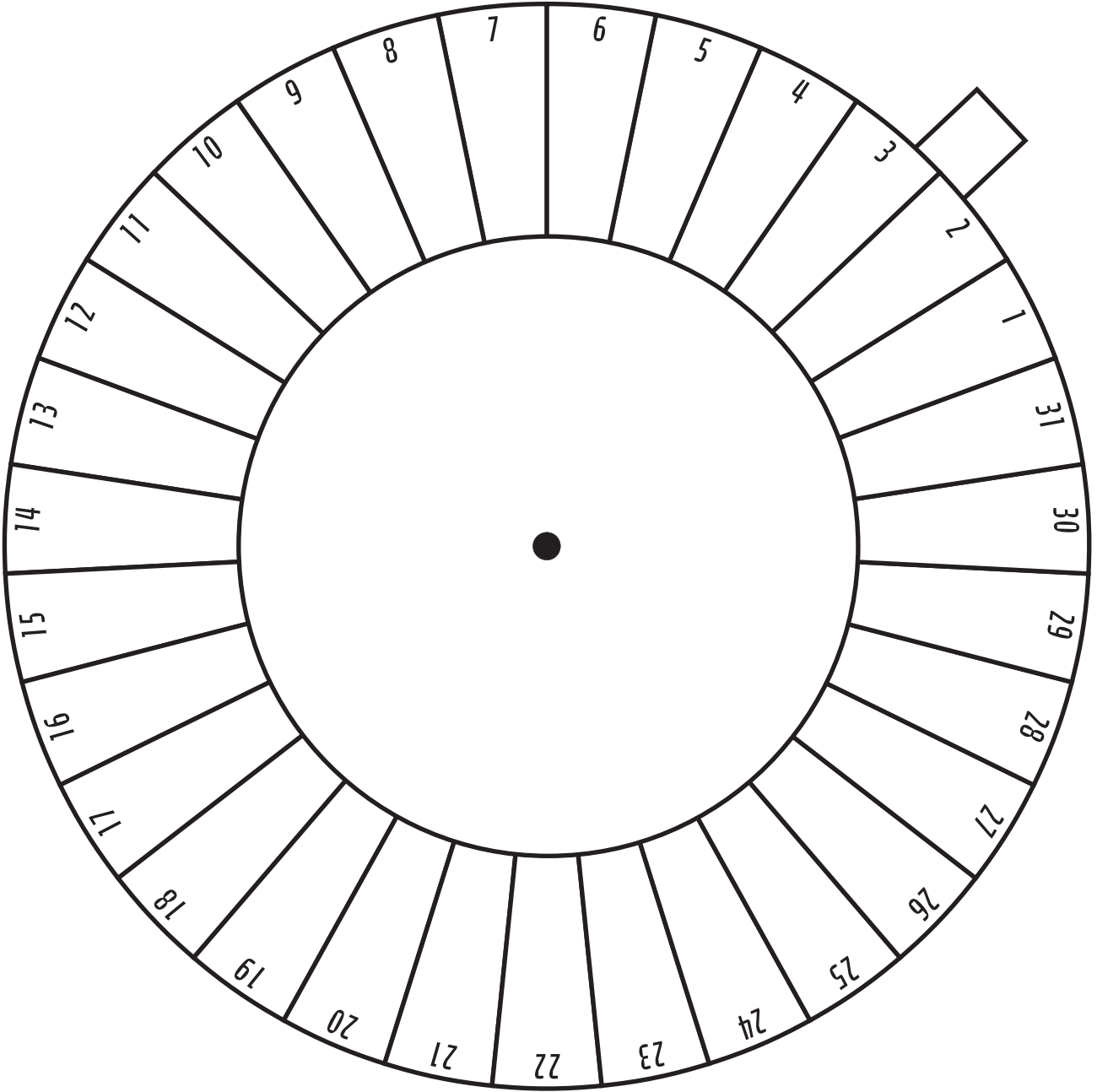
Removed as far as the east is from the west.

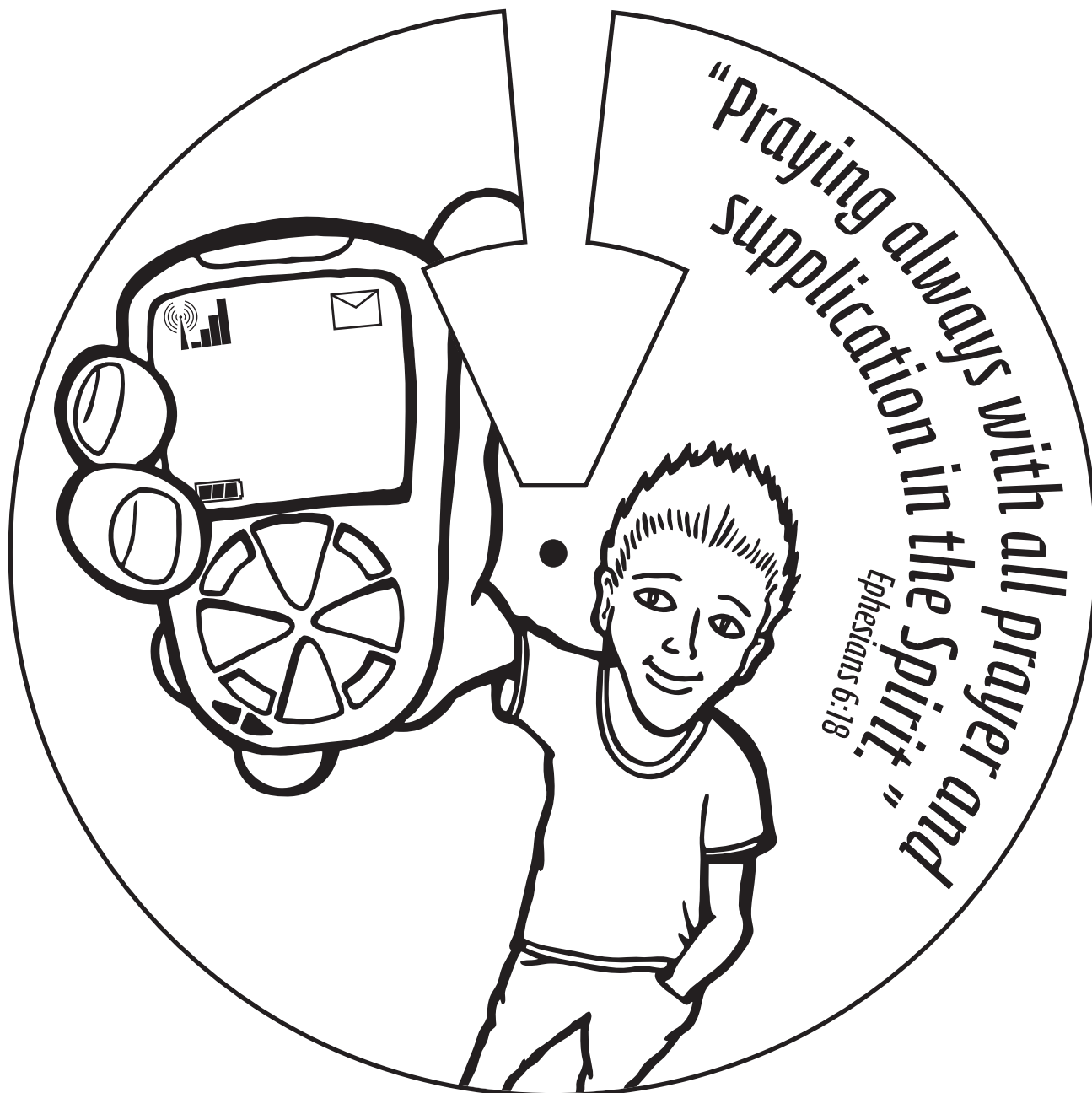
Isaiah 1:18

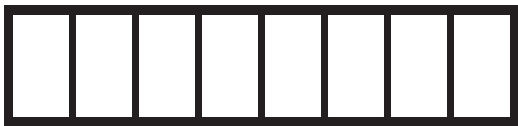
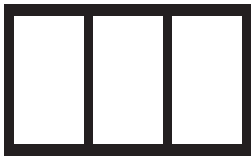
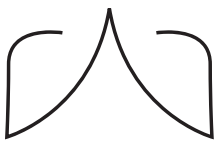
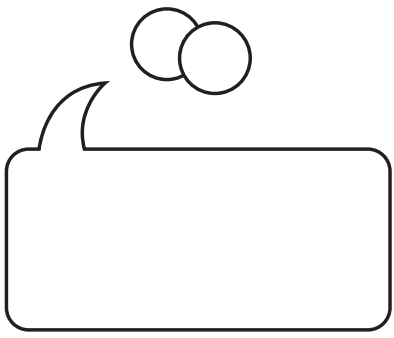
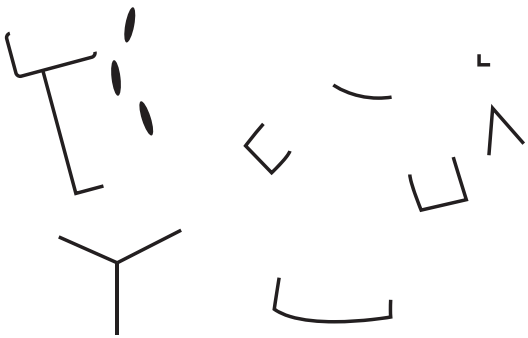
Never remembered again.

Hebrews 10:17

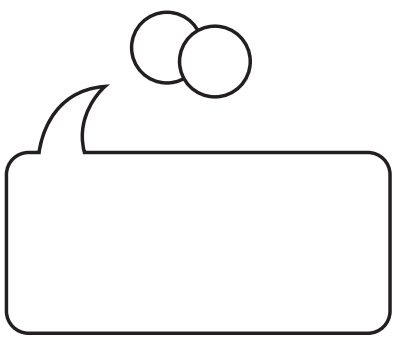
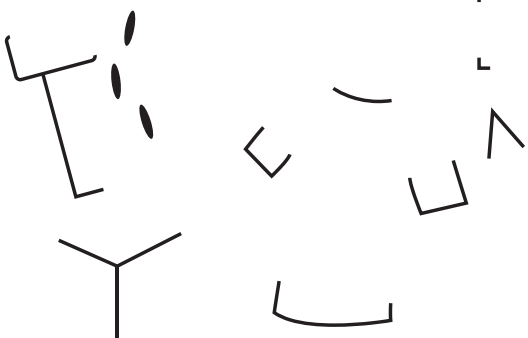
Cast into the depths of the sea.





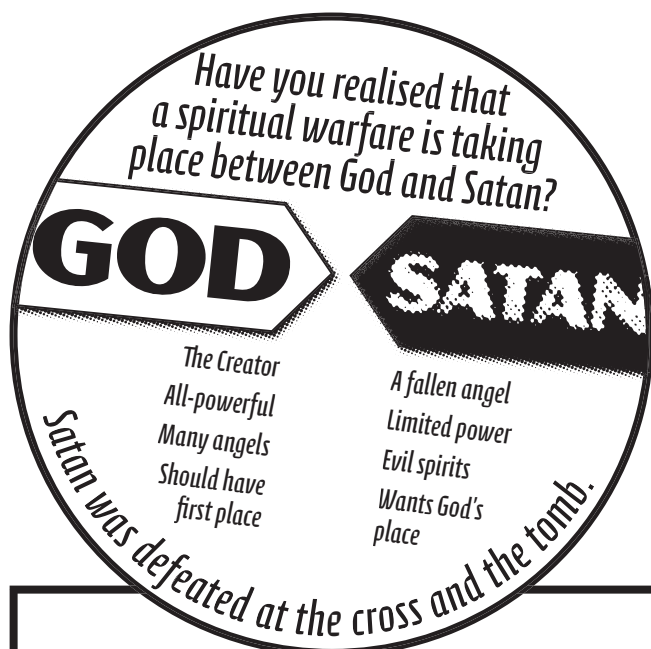


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Are you using all the armour of God?

- girdle of truth
- breastplate of righteousness
- shoes of the Gospel of peace
- shield of faith
- helmet of salvation
- sword of the Spirit

Ephesians 6:10-18

