

**Unit 6 The Promise of Heaven**

**Camp Venture Counselor's Guide**

**Letters About Strength**

**Aim: To learn what it means to choose to wear the protective armor of God and be strong in the Lord as explained in the letters in the Bible.**

PROPHETS AND PROMISES PART 1

THE WORSHIP, THE WORD, & THE WAY

**At the Campfire**

Worship the Spirit Who Shows Us  
Camp Critter: Gorilla

**Tent Time**

New Testament Letters: Ephesians 6:10-11, 14-18 and 1 Peter 5:8-10  
GOT TIME? Letter: 1 Corinthians 15:58  
Christ Connection: 2 Chronicles 20:17

**Bible Memory Verse**

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path."  
Psalm 119:105 (NIV)  
The Books of the New Testament

**CAMPING SUPPLY CHECKLIST**

- ☐ Set out mats or sit-upons in a semicircle, Counselor's camp chair
- ☐ Camp Venture Counselor's Guide on a clipboard and a Counselor's Bible
- ☐ Camp Games: Floor tape or chalk, four chairs
- ☐ At the Campfire: Lesson 29 Worship Illustration or Storybook, Bible Memory Verse Song "New Testament Overture" and other related music
- ☐ Mailbag: Create a list of today's New Testament letter scripture references, fold it and place it in the Counselor's Bible. Put the Bible, Pen Pal Letter, 18 pieces of sturdy paper, six yards of yarn, six markers, six pairs of scissors and six rolls of tape in any bag.
- ☐ Got Time Gear: Round crackers, cheese spread, plastic knives, drinks, napkins, plates, cups, sturdy paper cut to 2-inch squares, tape, sturdy cardboard, foam board, poster board or plywood approximately 6-feet x 4-feet, pencils, markers, glue or tape, sturdy paper, assorted craft decorating supplies, "New Testament Overture" song, player and poster, flashlights, different versions of the Bible
- ☐ Today's New Testament Postcard with a stamp or sticker of armor: shield, sword, helmet, etc.
- ☐ Daily Way Lesson 29

**ADD-A-VENTURE**

Use additional items to create the Camp Venture experience. For example: set up a camp tent, Camp Venture Photo Board or photo album including photos of each camper, fire logs surrounded with stones as a flameless campfire, etc.



# Camp Games

(30 Minutes)

Welcome to Camp Venture! Each time before we worship, we get to know each other better and have some fun with our Camp Games. First, let's dedicate this day of camp to Jesus. (Pray.)

Today we are learning what the New Testament letters say about strength. Believers can find strength from God. One of the ways God gives us strength is an amazing, invisible protection called the armor of God. One of those special pieces of armor are the shoes of the gospel. The special shoes make our feet ready to go and tell everyone the good news about Jesus. Let's play a game where we pretend our shoes are shoes of the gospel as we share the good news!

## **GAME: FAST FEET**

**PURPOSE:** Campers will run a relay race to help them understand how the armor of God can equip them to spread the good news about Jesus.

**SUPPLIES:** Floor tape or chalk, four chairs

**PREPARE:** Place the four chairs in the center of the play area. Use the floor tape or chalk to mark a starting line for each team equidistant from their team's chair.

### **DIRECTIONS:**

1. Divide the campers into four teams of equal size.
2. Ask one volunteer from each team to sit in the chair opposite their team's starting line.
3. The remaining campers remove their shoes and pile them on the floor half way between their team's starting line and the chair. Mix up the shoes in each pile so it is challenging to find pairs.
4. Each team stands in a line behind their starting line.
5. On your signal, the first camper in each team's line races to the pile of shoes, finds his or her shoes, and puts them on. Camper then runs to the person sitting in the chair, tells them one fact about Jesus. (Some examples: "Jesus loves you." "Jesus forgives your sins." "Jesus came to save us." "Jesus was born in Bethlehem." "Jesus died on the cross." "Jesus is in heaven.")
6. After saying a fact about Jesus, that camper runs back to his or her team line and tags the next camper in line who repeats the process.
7. The goal is to be the first team to have each camper complete the relay.

**\*Counselor Clues:** Brainstorm ideas of what to share about Jesus together before playing the game.

Or, assign each team one of the suggested sentences and have each camper on the team use that same fact. Small groups can play with two teams instead of four.

Limited Space? All campers are on the same team. Play the game twice; timing it each time. Challenge the campers to beat their time on the second round of play.

**\*More Counselor Clues:** For added fun, be very generous with points (For example: 100,000 points for 1<sup>st</sup> place; 75,000 points for 2<sup>nd</sup> place; 40,000 points for 3<sup>rd</sup> place; 30,000 points for 4<sup>th</sup> place. The teams will end up with point totals in the millions at the end of camp.) Prizes for points can range from a round of applause to a grand prize for the team with the highest total points at the end of camp. The grand prize can be an ice cream party, pizza party, etc. Before closing on the last day, have the winning team invite all of the other teams to join the party. Always encourage good sportsmanship and cheering for each other.



# At the Campfire

(15 Minutes)

Today we worship the Spirit who shows us that God will protect us and help us stand against the evil schemes of the devil. God is more powerful than anyone or anything in heaven or on earth. We can praise Him as the awesome, mighty God who reigns over everything. (Sing: "Awesome God" while collecting the offering.)

## Worship Elements:

Designate a special corner or area for worship.

Collect and lead prayer for an offering.

Perform Worship Illustration or read Storybook:

- Prophets & Promises Unit 6, Lesson 29

Say the Camper's Code together.

**Today's camp critter is a gorilla.**  
**Gorillas are powerful animals that are very strong. They have so many muscles, it almost looks like they are wearing protective armor. They are today's camp critter because we are learning about some special letters found in the New Testament that teach us God has a special, invisible armor that protects us and makes us strong!**

## Camp Critter Song

I spied a GORILLA overhead.  
Here is what that GORILLA said,  
"With His armor on—  
we can all be strong!"  
I spied a GORILLA,  
who followed the KITTEN,  
who followed the RACE HORSE,  
who followed the DOVE,  
who followed the LITTLE LAMB,  
who followed the SERPENT,  
who followed the MEERKAT,  
who followed the LOVEBIRD  
And the LOVEBIRD hollered,  
"Yippee-kigh-yay!  
At Camp Venture today!"

## Camper's Code

I will love God with all my heart.  
I will love my neighbor as myself.  
I will be a light wherever I go.

## Praise Song Suggestions

Select songs containing that focus on God's power and protection.

"Awesome God"

"Forever"

"Shout To The Lord"

Songs 4 Worship Kids, Volume 1

## Bible Memory Verse Song

"New Testament Overture"

Psalm 119:105 (KJV)

The Books of the New Testament

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet  
and a light unto my path!

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet  
and a light unto my path!

Go to Matthew, to Mark, go to Luke and John.

Go to Acts and the letter to the Romans.

Go to First, go to Second Corinthians,  
to Galatians and Ephesians!

Philippians and Colossians,  
First and Second Thessalonians,  
First and Second Timothy,  
then Titus and Philemon!

Go to Hebrews and go to James.

Go to First, go to Second Peter.

Go to First, Second, Third John.

Go to Jude, then go to Revelation!

*(Repeat three times going faster each time.)*

*Sheet music and recordings available at  
[www.childrensministrywarehouse.net](http://www.childrensministrywarehouse.net)*



# Tent Time

(15 Minutes)

(Tent time should take place in a corner of the classroom, under a tent or any covered space. Remove chairs and have campers sit on mats or sit-upons.)

## **New Testament Letters**

**Welcome to Tent Time!** (Counselor holds up mailbag.) **Last time we found letters about weakness in our mailbag. We learned that in our weakness, God's power is clearly seen by others.**

**Today we will learn how we can be strong in the Lord. If you brought your Bible, open it now and share with others.** (Hand out spare Bibles. Counselor opens mailbag and removes Bible, opens Bible and takes out list of today's New Testament letter scripture references: Ephesians 6:10-11, 14-18 and 1 Peter 5:8-10.)

**Before we read, let's stand and ask God to open our eyes, ears, hearts and minds to His Word today. Who'd like to pray that for us?** (Camper prays aloud.) **Be seated.**

**Listen carefully to what Paul wrote in his letter to his friends, the believers in Ephesus. As we read, let's count the pieces of armor.**  
(Read Ephesians 6:10-11, 14-18.)

**Now let's read what Peter wrote about standing firm in his first letter to other believers.** (Read 1 Peter 5:8-10.)



# Tent Time **continued**

(15 Minutes)

## Mailbag

(Print the Pen Pal letter on a sheet of paper. Fold the paper and place it in an envelope.) **Let's open our mailbag to see if our Pen Pal will give us a clue about what today's New Testament letter has to do with your life.** (Remove Pen Pal Letter from mailbag, open the envelope. Remove the letter and read.)

Hey Pals,

Paul had seen plenty of Roman soldiers. On the streets, in the courts and prisons, he must have noticed the armor they wore. It protected them from the weapons of their enemies. Believers have an enemy, too. It is the devil, Satan. He wants us to feel discouraged and alone. He wants us to give up hope when times are hard. But God wants us to stand our ground. That means to not run away or give the enemy what he wants. What did Paul say would help the hearts of believers be strong in the Lord? (To put on the armor of God every day.) **Let's play a game where we can do that right now!**

### DIRECTIONS:

1. Divide campers into 6 groups. Give each group 3 pieces of sturdy paper, one yard of yarn, one marker, one pair of scissors, and one roll of tape from the mailbag.
  2. Assign one piece of armor to each group. Each group uses the supplies from the mailbag to create their assigned piece of armor and put it on a team member. The groups race to see who can finish first.
  3. One at a time, explain what each piece of armor represents. Have everyone brainstorm to describe a situation in which they would use each particular piece.
- **Belt of Truth:** Just as a belt keeps the armor close and in place, truth keeps us close to Jesus. (Sample brainstorm: Remembering something that is true about God.)
  - **Breastplate of Righteousness:** Just as a breastplate protects a soldier's heart, living God's way protects our heart from wanting what is wrong. (Sample brainstorm: Making right choices.)
  - **Shoes of the Gospel:** To be ready to go, a soldier wears shoes. The Gospel of Peace means the good news that because of Jesus, God has made peace with us. It makes our feet ready to go and tell the good news about Jesus. (Sample brainstorm: Telling others about Jesus.)
  - **Shield of Faith:** Just as a shield protects a soldier from flaming arrows, faith protects us from the evil words and lies sent from Satan. (Sample brainstorm: Lies Satan would have us believe.)
  - **The Helmet of Salvation:** Salvation means being saved. Just as a helmet protects a soldier's head, knowing God's promise to save us protects our minds from the evil thoughts. (Sample brainstorm: Good things about God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit to think about.)
  - **Sword of the Spirit:** Our only weapon is God's Word, our sword. When Satan tempts us, we can always fight back by remembering or reading what the Bible said about each temptation. (Sample brainstorm: Fighting a temptation by thinking about a certain Bible story or verse.)

That reminds me, over 800 years before Paul told the Ephesians how to stand their ground against the devil's schemes, God told King Jehoshaphat to stand his ground and watch as God defeated the enemy. Check out the instructions the Lord gave to King Jehoshaphat.

(Read today's Christ Connection: 2 Chronicles 20:17.)

**God has always helped us stand our ground against the enemy, so put on the armor of God! Believe and Be Strong!**

Your Pen Pal



# Tent Time **continued**

(15 Minutes)

## Share A Prayer

Let's thank God for sending us His Word, the Bible! We can pray for each other and all who live in this world for them to hear His Word, too.

(Ask campers for individual praise and prayer requests.)

Father in heaven, thank you for sending us Your Word. You know our needs—the ones we just shared out loud and the ones that we hide in our hearts. We lift all these up to Your throne now. (Pause of silence.) We can't wait to see the way that You will answer each one. Together, we close this prayer with the words Jesus taught us to pray:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

## Final Five

(When only five minutes remain, begin this segment.)

### New Testament Postcard

As you leave today, you'll receive a New Testament Postcard. I'm giving you this stamp or sticker of armor to remind you to put on the armor of God and be strong in the Lord. (Place stamp or sticker in the corner box on the back of the postcard.) Add this to your postcard collection. On your postcard, write where to find today's New Testament letters in the Bible. (You'll find the scriptures listed in the Daily Way.) Read these scriptures again to help you answer the postcard question.

### Letter From Camp

Write a Letter from Camp to someone in your home to let them know what you did today. Write your favorite thing about today and something special about the letters from the New Testament you just learned. Or draw a picture about that. Sign it and take it home.

### Prayer Requests

How can I pray for you this week?

(As campers work on their Letters from Camp, write individual requests in your counselor's prayer notebook.)

### Camper Challenge

(Hand out Lesson 29 Daily Way.)

Complete your Daily Way at home and bring it back next time to win points here at Camp Venture!

### Bible Memory Verse Song

Play the Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse song in the background as campers wait to be dismissed.





# Got Time?

(If time remains, choose from the connected activities in this segment.)

## **SNACK: SHIELD OF FAITH CRACKERS**

**PURPOSE:** Campers will eat a snack while personally connecting to the story.

**SUPPLIES:** Round crackers, cheese spread, plastic knives, drinks, napkins, plates, cups

**ASK>** Today we are learning about the armor of God. Let's make shields of faith crackers. What does the shield of faith protect us from? (Satan's lies.) Besides putting our armor on, what should we do for each other? (Pray for each other.) Before we make and eat our snack, we need a volunteer to pray for our snack and for us.

### **DIRECTIONS:**

1. Serve the snack and drink.
2. Camper prays to thank God for the snack.
3. Ask the Snack Discussion Question: **"What is a way God makes you strong?"**

## **GAME: ARMOR RACE**

**PURPOSE:** Review the pieces of the armor of God.

**SUPPLIES:** Sturdy paper cut to 2-inch squares, tape

**PREPARE:** Create a set of six armor tags for each team by pre-printing or writing the following titles on each paper square: belt of truth, breastplate of righteousness, shoes of the gospel, shield of faith, helmet of salvation, sword of the Spirit.

**ASK>** Do you remember all six pieces of the armor of God? Let's see how quickly you can put the armor pieces in the correct place on your team's soldier.

### **DIRECTIONS:**

1. Divide campers into teams of four.
2. Each team is given a set of six armor tags to represent the armor of God.
3. Each team chooses one team member to be the team's soldier.
4. Remaining three team members are the armor bearers.
5. On your signal, each team's armor bearers attach the tags to the correct location on their soldier.
6. The goal is to be the first team to securely attach all six tags in the correct location of where the armor would be worn on the team's soldier.

**ASK>** What is your favorite piece of the armor of God? (Respond.) Talk with your team about why that is your favorite piece of armor. What is one thing that piece of armor helps you be strong to do?



# Got Time? continued...

## **CRAFT: CARE PACKAGE—ARMOR OF GOD FOR ALL**

**PURPOSE:** For campers to make a humorous armor board as a gift for a group of believers so they can pretend to put on the armor of God.

**SUPPLIES:** Sturdy cardboard, foam board, poster board or plywood approximately 6-feet x 4-feet, pencils, markers, glue or tape, sturdy paper, assorted craft decorating supplies (For example: paint and brushes, tin foil or shiny paper, cloth, leather strips, metal pieces, colored paper, etc.)

**PREPARE:** Choose the group of believers who will receive the care package. Draw or copy a life size outline of a soldier onto the 6x4 foot piece. Include a belt, breastplate, shoes, shield, helmet, and sword. Cut a large hole out of the board in place of the soldier's face. (Hole should be large enough for an adult to comfortably put his or her head through.) Write the following where campers can see to copy: **Belt of Truth, Breastplate of Righteousness, Shoes of the Gospel, Shield of Faith, Helmet of Salvation, Sword of the Spirit, Put on the Armor of God! Ephesians 6:10-18.**

**ASK>** Today we learned what the New Testament letters says about strength.

**What did Paul say we should put on so we can be strong against the enemy?**

(The armor of God.) **Let's make a fun gift to help other believers remember to put on God's armor!** (Share information about the care package recipient(s) with the campers. Allow them to ask questions so they truly understand where and to whom their gift will be delivered.)

### **DIRECTIONS:**

1. Decorate the drawing of the soldier and the armor. (For example: Paint all or part of the soldier and the armor. Cut out and paste on cloth as a tunic. Use the tin foil or shiny paper to cover the breastplate, shield, helmet and sword. Glue on leather strips for the sandals. Glue metal pieces as studs on the soldier's armor.)
2. Use a marker or paint brush to write the six labels onto the correct armor pieces.
3. Make a sign on the sturdy paper:

**Put on the Armor of God!**

**Ephesians 6:10-18**

4. Let each camper take a turn "wearing" the armor by putting his or her head through the hole where the soldier's face would be. If possible, take photographs of each camper "wearing" the armor before delivering the gift.

**\*Counselor Clues:** If possible, take campers with you to deliver the care package to the recipient(s). Take pictures for the campers to share when delivering the package.

**Alternative Craft #1:** Instead of creating a free-standing armor board, create a large paper banner showing a soldier with all the armor pieces labeled.

**Alternative Craft #2:** Allow each camper to create and decorate their own smaller version of the armor board by substituting a large poster board. Pre-print the soldier's helmet to scale and cut the hole large enough to fit a head through, but make the body of the soldier disproportionately small to fit on the rest of the poster.





# Got Time? continued...

## **DISCUSSION: MORE LETTERS ABOUT STRENGTH—**

### **1 CORINTHIANS 15:58**

**PURPOSE:** Campers learn of a third letter about strength from the New Testament.

**SUPPLIES:** Bible opened to 1 Corinthians 15:58

**SAY** > The armor of God strengthens our hearts to stand against Satan's schemes. Let's check out Paul's advice about standing firm from his first letter to the Corinthians. (Read 1 Corinthians 15:58.) **What does Paul say to do about the work of the Lord?** (To always give yourself fully to the work of the Lord.) **The work of the Lord is anything we do to serve Him or those He made. What are some examples of ways we can serve the Lord?** (Respond.)

#### **"New Testament Overture"**

*Sheet music and recordings available at [www.childrensministrywarehouse.net](http://www.childrensministrywarehouse.net)*

Psalm 119:105 (KJV) and the books of the New Testament sung to the tune of The William Tell Overture: Allegro Vivace

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path!  
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path!

Go to Matthew, to Mark, go to Luke and John. Go to Acts and the letter to the Romans.  
Go to First, go to Second Corinthians, to Galatians and Ephesians!

Philippians and Colossians, First and Second Thessalonians,  
First and Second Timothy, then Titus and Philemon!

Go to Hebrews and go to James. Go to First, go to Second Peter.  
Go to First, Second, Third John. Go to Jude, then go to Revelation!

## **BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES**

### **GAME: LIGHT MY PATH**

**PURPOSE:** Campers learn the Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse.

**SUPPLIES:** "New Testament Overture" song, player and flashlights

#### **DIRECTIONS:**

1. Campers choose partners.
2. Give each pair a flashlight. (Pairs may take turns if there are a limited number of flashlights available.)
3. As the Bible Memory Verse plays, one partner moves the flashlight beam across the floor as the other partner walks the path highlighted by the beam. Make sure the partner moves the beam slowly enough that the other camper can walk in it.

**ASK** > How did you know where your partner wanted you to go? (By following the lighted path.) Psalm 119:105 says "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." When we read God's Word in the Bible, it's like He is shining a light for us to see how to follow the right path—His path. The Bible helps us know God and how to follow Him.



# Got Time? continued...

## MORE BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

### **GAME: NEXT BOOK**

**PURPOSE:** Campers learn the New Testament books in order.

**SUPPLIES:** "New Testament Overture" song, player, and poster

**SAY>** The Bible is made up of 66 different books. The New Testament has 27 books. Let's learn the books of the New Testament to help us find scripture verses quickly. How fast can you learn all the New Testament books in order?

#### **DIRECTIONS:**

1. Play the Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse one time. Have campers sing along as they learn the words.
2. Play the song again. This time stop the song during the list of the books of the New Testament.
3. Campers call out the name of the book that comes next. They can refer to the poster if necessary.
4. Play again as time permits.
5. As campers learn the books, challenge them by taking away the poster and choosing one camper to respond each time you stop the song.

### **GAME: THE BIBLE IS HOT, HOT, HOT!**

**PURPOSE:** Campers learn the New Testament books in order.

**SUPPLIES:** "New Testament Overture" song, player and poster, Bible

#### **DIRECTIONS:**

1. Seat campers in a circle.
2. Play the Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse as campers quickly pass the Bible around the circle.
3. Stop the song during the list of the books of the New Testament.
4. The camper holding the Bible when the song stops is to open the Bible and find the last New Testament book sung in the song as quickly as possible.
5. Play again as time permits.
6. As campers learn the books, challenge them by timing the camper searching for the book. Encourage campers to cheer for each other and try and get a faster time each time they are selected.

**\*Counselor Clue:** For an added challenge and to protect the Bible during this game, use a hard cover Bible and tie it closed with a sturdy ribbon or enclose the Bible in a zipped cover or large zip top bag.



# Got Time? continued...

## MORE BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

### **DISCUSSION: ALL GOD'S WORD**

**PURPOSE:** For campers to recognize there are different versions of the Bible, but it is all God's truth.

**SUPPLIES:** Different versions of the Bible opened to Psalm 119:105 (NIV, KJV, NLT, NIRV, The Message, etc.)

**SAY** > Have you ever noticed that even when people speak the same language, they use different words to say the same thing? In the English language, "soda," "soft drink" and "pop" are all words used for the same type of fizzy drink. People who are from different areas use different words and so do people of different ages. In the same way, Bibles use different wordings to say the same thing. For example, in some Bibles Psalm 119:105 uses the words: "Thy word" while other versions use the words: "Your word." Both are true!

### **DIRECTIONS:**

1. Read a version of Psalm 119:105 aloud.
2. Read a different version of Psalm 119:105. Point out the differences.
3. Read a third version of Psalm 119:105. Point out the differences again.
4. Take a vote to determine the camper's favorite version.
5. Read and sing the Bible Memory Verse song according to the King James Version.

**\*Counselor Clue:** Compare Bible versions of other famous passages such as Psalm 23 and John 3:16.