

Teacher's Guide: Adaptation for Children with Disabilities Prophets & Promises Part 1: Acts through Revelation Unit 6, Lesson 29

A Letter About Strength —Part 2

Lesson Aim: To learn about the armor of God that helps us to be strong in the Lord.

THE WORSHIP

Who God is: The Spirit Who Shows Us

THE WORD

New Testament Letters: Ephesians 6:10, 13, 15-18 What He has done: God showed Paul how He strengthens us.

THE WAY

Whisper Verse: "Be strong in the Lord."

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"Behold, I am coming soon." Revelation 22:12

Challenge Verse for older children:

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path." Psalm 119:105 Optional: Memorize the names of the books of the New Testament.

Unit 6: The Promise of Heaven				
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim	
28	A Letter About Strength—Part 1,	God showed Paul how He	To know we are weak and need the	
	Ephesians 6:10, 13, 15-18	strengthens us.	invisible armor of God.	
29	A Letter About Strength—Part 2,	God showed Paul how He	To learn about the armor of God that	
	Ephesians 6:10, 13, 15-18	strengthens us.	helps us to be strong in the Lord.	
30	A Letter About Jesus' Return,	God revealed to John that	To know Jesus is coming back.	
	Revelation 1:1-2, 7; 22:12	Jesus is coming back.		
31	A Letter About Heaven,	Jesus showed John a vision	To know what heaven will be like.	
	Revelation 21:1-4, 18-19, 21, 23	of what heaven looks like.		

TEACHER'S ENCOURAGEMENT

This week, read Psalm 28:7-8. Please join us in praying, "Thank You, Lord, for protecting us from the schemes of Satan. Help the children stand their ground and understand how to use the armor of God so they can be strong in You. Amen."

Teacher Tips: Prophets & Promises Lessons 22-31 (Units 5-6) feature various letters of the New Testament. Replace the Treasure Chest with a mailbox to hold THE WELCOME stamp or sticker. In THE WORD, since the letters are not Bible stories, create interest and encourage involvement by placing the symbol and the envelope with the printed letter in a mailbag or tote bag known as the "Special Delivery Mailbag."

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Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Picture Schedule Cards	Cards with picture illustrating the activities: WELCOME, WORSHIP, BIBLE, CRAFT, PRAYER, SNACK, GAMES, COLORING, GOING HOME. Envelope labeled FINISHED. Optional: To display schedule, use Velcro to attach laminated Picture Schedule cards to a felt board.
		Mailbox	Stamp or sticker of armor(shield, sword, or helmet)
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	Whisper Verse Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org.	Sign language for "Be strong in the Lord." Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse Song: "Behold, I Am Coming Soon" or "The New Testament Overture" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "At The Name Of Jesus," "He Is Mighty to Save," "I Can Do Everything," "Not by Might," "To Him Who Sits on the Throne," "Praise Time!" "Let Everything That Has Breath" Additional Hymn Suggestions: "Jesus Loves Me"
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	Prophets & Promises Lesson 29 Delbert & Lello or Mail Call script or storybook
THE WORD	Up to 10	Special Delivery: Ephesians 6:10, 13, 15-18	Visuals: New Testament letter (available at ResourceWell.org), Bible, mailbag or tote bag, toy or cardboard sword Flannel board/figures: 2 adults, 2 children Clay or play-dough option: Sword
THE WAY	Up to 25	Craft: God's Armor	See craft for supplies.
	'	Circle of Prayer or Lord's Prayer	Lord's Prayer word and picture book
		Snack: Strong Swords	Pretzel sticks
		Unit 6 Games: Sand Search	Bin or container of clean sand, cross, white pompom or cotton ball, laminated picture of a sword or shield, candle or penlight, craft jewel
		Thumbs Up or Thumbs Down?	None, optional: hand puppet or finger puppets
		Blanket Ball	Blanket or tablecloth, inflatable ball or balloon
		Bible Books Dance	"The New Testament Overture" song, CD player
		Scenes from Mail Call (older children only)	Mail Call scripts for Lessons 29, 30, 31
		Musical Chairs	Chairs, Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse Song, CD player
		Bean Bag Toss	Several beanbags, hula-hoop (or rope or floor tape)
		Bible Memory Verse Bubbles	Bubbles, bubble wand, Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse Song "Behold, I Am Coming Soon" or "The New Testament Overture," CD player
	Final 5	Final Five	Daily Way (Adaptation): Unit 6, Lesson 29 Color This Story: "A Letter from Paul About Strength" (Picture of the armor of God)

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



PICTURE SCHEDULE: WELCOME TIME

WELCOME > WORSHIP > BIBLE > CRAFT > PRAYER > SNACK > GAMES > COLORING > GOING HOME

Welcome each child as they arrive. Hello _____. I'm glad you are here! Come and see what we are going to do today. Point to each card on the Picture Schedule board. Today, we will <u>WELCOME</u> everyone. We will read the <u>BIBLE</u> story and make a <u>CRAFT</u>. We will have <u>PRAYER</u> time and eat a <u>SNACK</u>. We will play <u>GAMES</u> and enjoy <u>COLORING</u> a picture about today's story.

Open the mailbox to find today's special delivery. Child unlocks the mailbox to receive a stamp or sticker of armor. Let this stamp (or sticker) of armor help you remember God can make you strong. Today's Whisper Verse is "Be strong in the Lord." To be strong in the Lord means to let the Lord God make you strong. Teach the Whisper Verse in spoken language and in sign language below. We call it the Whisper Verse so you can whisper it to others.*

SIGN LANGUAGE: "Be strong in the Lord."

(For visual demonstrations, see www.signingsavvy.com.)

Each time we say today's Whisper Verse, let's say it with two hand motions:

"(Be) strong" Create fists with both hands. Firmly pull both fists away from the chest in a manner

to show that a person is strong.

"(in the) Lord." Extend thumb and index finger of right hand to create an "L" shape. Bring "L" shape

diagonal across chest from the left shoulder to the right hip as a royal sash.

Allow children to enjoy free play until everyone has arrived. Let's sing the "Clean Up Song" as we put toys away before Praise Time. Praise any child who helps. Allow several minutes for clean up.

"Clean Up Song": Clean up! Clean up! Everybody, everywhere!

Clean up! Clean up! Everybody do your share!

Gather and seat children in Praise Time area.

*Today's Whisper Verse: "Be strong in the Lord," Ephesians 6:10a. The Whisper Verse is a tool to help the children learn a major point in the lesson. It is coupled with sign language or hand motions as a memory aid. The verse is not necessarily chosen from today's Bible story.



PICTURE SCHEDULE: WORSHIP TIME

WELCOME > WORSHIP > BIBLE > CRAFT > PRAYER > SNACK > GAMES > COLORING > GOING HOME

Choose a child to remove the <u>WELCOME</u> picture card and place it in the <u>FINISHED</u> envelope. **We have finished our Welcome Time**. **Now**, **we will have our Worship Time**.

Children may worship in a large group with other classes or in a quiet room with a worship CD or DVD.

Teacher Tip: To help children identify time set aside for worship, play "It's Praise Time!" as children move to a designated place for praise songs, offering, and the worship illustration. Children who are nonverbal may enjoy participating in the music by playing children's percussion instruments such as maracas, jingle bells, wood blocks, or small tambourines. Children who are sensitive to sound may prefer to wear noise reduction headphones.

It's Praise Time—our time to sing praise to the Holy Spirit who shows us how to be strong in the Lord. That is today's Whisper Verse. Let's say it together now. Review the Whisper Verse together: "Be strong in the Lord." Include sign language.



Being strong in the Lord means to let the Lord God make you strong. It is not about having big muscles; it is about having a strong heart that loves the Lord and a strong mind that chooses to do what is right in His eyes. The Holy Spirit is the only one who can make us strong in the Lord. Sing: "Not By Might."

When the Lord God makes us strong, we can do everything! "I Can Do Everything."

When your mind is strong in the Lord, you choose to do right in God's eyes. One thing that is right in His eyes is to give our offerings to Him. Let's sing our Bible Memory Verse Song as we give our offering now. Sing: "Behold, I Am Coming Soon" as the offering is collected.



Paul wrote a letter to help us know how to be strong in the Lord. He said to put on the invisible armor of God. Let's see if Uncle Donny knows what Paul said.

Perform *The Adventures of Delbert and Lello* puppet script or read storybook: Prophets & Promises Unit 6, Lesson 29.*



God protects us by giving us His armor. We trust God to protect us because He is so strong and mighty. Sing: "He Is Mighty to Save."

^{*} May substitute Lesson 29 Mail Call script or storybook.



PICTURE SCHEDULE: BIBLE TIME

WELCOME > WORSHIP > BIBLE > CRAFT > PRAYER > SNACK > GAMES > COLORING > GOING HOME

Choose a child to remove the <u>WORSHIP</u> picture card and place it in the <u>FINISHED</u> envelope. **We have finished our Worship Time. Now, we will have our Bible Time.**

In the Bible, there are special letters written by believers to people like you and me. Last time, we learned about the armor of God. Today, we will review what we have learned.

SPECIAL DELIVERY: EPHESIANS 6:10, 13, 15-18

Prepare: Today's New Testament letter is available at ResourceWell.org or you can create your own by writing the words in the box below on a piece of paper. Enclose the letter in an envelope and place it inside the teacher's Bible. Place the Bible and a toy or cardboard sword in a mailbag or tote bag (Special Delivery Mailbag). Have children assist by placing Bible Story figures on a flannel board. Other visual options include Color This Story or a related picture. Optional: To help children focus, have them create a sword from clay or play dough as they listen to the story.

Let's open the Special Delivery Mailbag to read this week's letter from the Bible. Choose a child to open the mailbag, remove the Bible, and hand it to the leader or teacher. Read the letter.



Dear family of God in Ephesus,

Finally, let God make you strong; depend on His mighty power. Put on all of God's armor. Wear on your feet what will prepare you to tell the good news of peace and pick up the shield of faith. Put on the helmet of salvation and take the sword of the Holy Spirit. The sword is God's Word. And, at all times, pray by the power of the Spirit.

Love, Paul

What should you put on? (The invisible armor of God.) Let's find our answer in today's letter from the Bible. Read the answer from today's New Testament Letter. Who will make you strong? (God.) Our Whisper Verse gives us a hint about the answer. Let's say it together: "Be strong in the Lord." Include sign language or hand motions. That means to let God make your heart strong to love Him and your mind strong to choose to do what is right in His eyes.

The armor of God helps us be strong in the Lord. Our symbol for this letter is a sword. Invite a child to reach into the mailbag to find today's symbol (a toy or cardboard sword). The Sword of the Spirit stands for the Bible.

PASS THE SWORD: Ask the question below and give the sword to a child who has raised his or her hand. The child gives his or her answer and then gives the sword to another child whose hand is raised.

• How has the Bible helped you be stronger in loving God and making right choices?



PICTURE SCHEDULE: CRAFT TIME

WELCOME > WORSHIP > BIBLE > CRAFT > PRAYER > SNACK > GAMES > COLORING > GOING HOME

Choose a child to remove the <u>BIBLE</u> picture card and place it in the <u>FINISHED</u> envelope. **We have finished our Bible Time. Now, it is Craft Time.**

CRAFT: GOD'S ARMOR

Purpose: To remind the children that God makes them strong.

Supplies: 12x18 colored sturdy paper, colored felt or craft foam (may substitute sturdy colored paper),

assorted craft decorations (stamps, stickers, sequins, etc.), crayons or markers, tape or glue

Prepare: From the 12x18 colored sturdy paper, cut out the shape of a shield. To make a handle, cut a 4x12 inch rectangle from the same paper. Fold over the last 3 inches of the rectangle on both ends and attach the ends to the back of the shield to create a loop for a handle. At the top of the shield, print "**Be strong in the Lord." Ephesians 6:10a.** From colored felt or craft foam, cut out the shape of a cross and a heart.

Directions:

- 1. Attach the heart to the front of the shield.
- 2. Attach the cross to the front of the heart.
- 3. Color and decorate the shield with assorted craft decorations.

Craft Discussion:

- > God protects us from harm, just as a shield protects a soldier from arrows.
- > The cross on our shields reminds us that God is our shield and our protector.
- > The heart on our shields reminds us that God loves us and protects our hearts.
- Who makes you strong? (God.) That reminds me of our Whisper Verse! Let's say it with our motions right now! Say the Whisper Verse together with the hand motions.
- > Can you see the armor of God? (No.) God gives us invisible armor that makes our hearts strong to love Him and our minds strong to choose what is right in His eyes.

THE WAY continued...



CIRCLE OF PRAYER/THE LORD'S PRAYER

PICTURE SCHEDULE: PRAYER TIME

WELCOME > WORSHIP > BIBLE > CRAFT > PRAYER > SNACK > GAMES > COLORING > GOING HOME

Choose a child to remove the <u>CRAFT</u> picture card and place it in the <u>FINISHED</u> envelope. **We have finished our Craft Time. Now, it is Prayer Time.**

God made you and He cares for you. He loves to hear you pray with private words or words you say out loud. Let's fold our hands and close our eyes. As I lift up your name to God in heaven, I will lay my hand on your shoulder. Let's pray together.

Dear God, thank You for making us and loving us. We lift up to You a special prayer for ____, ____ (say every name). We pray for our families and friends. Thank You for teaching us how to love one another. Amen. You may add the Lord's Prayer with the word picture book.

PICTURE SCHEDULE: SNACK TIME

WELCOME > WORSHIP > BIBLE > CRAFT > PRAYER > SNACK > GAMES > COLORING > GOING HOME

Choose a child to remove the <u>PRAYER</u> picture card and place it in the <u>FINISHED</u> envelope. **We have finished our Prayer Time. Now, it is Snack Time.**

Teacher Tip: It is important to keep a record of all dietary restrictions and allergies accessible. Some parents may prefer to bring their child's snack. Depending on the dietary needs of your classroom, you may determine it is best to omit snack time completely.

SNACK: STRONG SWORDS

Purpose: Children will eat a snack to remind them that the Word of God is their sword.

Snack Suggestion: Pretzel sticks

Let's eat some yummy pretzel swords!

Directions:

- 1. Serve the snacks and drinks.
- 2. **Let's sing the "Blessing Song."** Sing to the tune of "Frere Jacques" or other familiar tune. **God our Father, God our Father. Once again, once again.**

Thank You for our blessings. Thank You for our blessings. Amen. Amen.

- 3. Lead discussion below while children enjoy their snack.
 - ➤ Who remembers our Whisper Verse? Choose a child to demonstrate the motions to the Whisper Verse: "Be strong in the Lord."
 - ➤ A sword is used to keep enemies away. The Bible is the sword in God's armor. It is not sharp or shiny like a sword, but obeying the words of the Bible keeps wrong thinking away. It helps us to choose what is right.

THE WAY (GAME OPTIONS)

UNIT 6 GAME OPTIONS

Play one or more of the activities below until the last five minutes of class then proceed to Final Five.

PICTURE SCHEDULE: GAMES TIME

WELCOME > WORSHIP > BIBLE > CRAFT > PRAYER > SNACK > GAMES > COLORING > GOING HOME

Choose a child to remove the <u>SNACK</u> picture card and place it in the <u>FINISHED</u> envelope. **We have finished our Snack Time. Now, is our time to play Games.**

GAME: SAND SEARCH

Purpose: This sand sifting activity soothes children. The items in the bin can be used to introduce the New Testament Letters or the Unit 6 Worship Attribute: The Spirit Who Shows Us.

Supplies: Bin or container of clean sand, cross, white pompom or cotton ball, laminated picture of a sword

or shield, candle or penlight, craft jewel

Prepare: Place all items beneath the surface of the sand.

Directions:

- 1. Children take turns reaching into the sand in search of the objects.
- 2. Teacher and children discuss each object as it is located.
- 3. When all the objects have been located, display them on a tabletop or on the surface of the sand.
- 4. Children feel each item as the teacher explains their connection to the Unit 6 New Testament Letters. The candle or penlight reminds us of God's Word as the light that leads us (Bible Memory Verse Challenge). The picture of the shield or sword reminds us that God gives us truth, faith, and His Word to protect us just as armor protects a soldier. The cross reminds us that Jesus forgives us and will one day come back to take all who believe to live with Him in heaven. The white pompom or cotton ball reminds us of the clouds Jesus will come through when He returns to earth. The jewel reminds us that the city walls of heaven are decorated with beautiful jewels.

GAME: THUMBS UP OR THUMBS DOWN?

Purpose: This nonverbal true-false game helps children master the Bible story or Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: None, optional: hand puppet or finger puppets

Directions:

- 1. Teacher or puppet retells today's Bible story, or Bible Memory Verse, pausing after each phrase to say "Thumbs up or thumbs down."
- 2. If retelling the Bible story, read it in phrases. For some phrases, state accurate descriptions. For other phrases, replace the truth with silly facts. For example, say, "The armor of God can be bought at the grocery store." Thumbs up or thumbs down?" (Children respond with thumbs down.) "The armor of God is invisible. It is a way to describe how God protects us." (Children respond with thumbs up.)
- 3. If reviewing the Bible Memory Verse, read it in phrases. For some phrases, read it correctly. For other phrases, replace a word with a word that makes no sense. For example, say, "Behold, we are coming soon. Thumbs up or thumbs down?" (Children respond with thumbs down.) "Behold, I am coming soon." Thumbs up or thumbs down?" (Children respond with thumbs up.)

THE WAY (GAME OPTIONS) continued...

GAME: BLANKET BALL

Purpose: Children catch a ball in a blanket to remember the Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Blanket or tablecloth, inflatable ball or balloon

Optional: For a more challenging game, list the books of the New Testament or the Unit 6 Bible Memory Challenge Verse (Psalm 119:105). Phrases may be divided as follows: "Your word/ is a lamp/ to my feet/ and a light/ for my path."

Let's use this blanket to toss the ball into the air. When the ball lands on the blanket, we will say a part of the Bible Memory Verse (Revelation 22:12): "Behold/I am/coming soon."

Directions:

- 1. Children stand in a circle holding the edges of the blanket.
- 2. Place an inflatable ball or balloon in the center of the blanket.
- 3. Together, children quickly raise the blanket to toss the ball into the air.
- 4. When the ball lands back on the blanket, lead children in saying a word or a phrase ("Behold/ I am / coming soon") of the Bible Memory Verse.
- 5. Play several times.

GAME: BIBLE BOOKS DANCE

Purpose: To familiarize children with the names of the New Testament books.

Supplies: "The New Testament Overture" song, CD player

Hold up the Bible. God gave us the Bible. The first part of the Bible is filled with true stories about God and His people. The second part of the Bible is filled with true stories about Jesus and letters from some of His followers.

Directions:

- 1. Let's see if we can listen closely to hear the names of the New Testament books of the Bible in this song while we move and dance. When you hear the book of <u>name a New</u> Testament book in the song, sit down as fast as you can.
- 2. Play "The New Testament Overture."
- 3. Children dance.
- 4. When the children hear the name of the book you called, they sit.
- 5. Play as many times as you like, calling out a different book each time.

GAME: SCENES FROM MAIL CALL

Purpose: To learn applications of the Unit 6 Bible stories, older children act out today's Mail Call script.

Supplies: Mail Call scripts for Lessons 29, 30, 31

Directions:

- 1. Choose the script that corresponds with today's New Testament Letter.
- 2. Assign each child a character name and improvise with the script so all the children can be their favorite character, a new character, or just take turns being the same character.
- 3. Act it out!

THE WAY (GAME OPTIONS) continued...

GAME: MUSICAL CHAIRS

Purpose: This version of Musical Chairs familiarizes children with the Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse Song.

Supplies: 1 chair per child, Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse Song, CD player

Prepare: Set chairs back-to-back in a row.

Teacher Tip: In this version of musical chairs, no chair is removed; all children remain in the game. Leave one or more spaces at the end of the row of chairs for any children in wheelchairs. Encourage quick listening and affirm those who are the first to hear the music stop and are seated.

To practice our Bible Memory Verse Song, let's play Musical Chairs.

Directions:

- 1. As the Bible Memory Verse Song plays, children march around the row of chairs and sing.
- 2. The teacher stops the music at different times during the song.
- 3. When the music stops, children find the nearest chair and sit immediately.

GAME: BEAN BAG TOSS

Purpose: To help children review the Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse. **Supplies:** Several beanbags, hula-hoop (or rope or floor tape)

Prepare: Use hula-hoop, rope, or floor tape to create a large target area on the floor.

Directions:

- 1. Give a beanbag to the first child.
- 2. Stand with the child approximately 6 feet from the target.
- 3. Before tossing the beanbag, the child says part of the Bible Memory Verse. (The teacher may say it with the child, as needed.)
- 4. Child tosses the beanbag at the target.
- 5. Children take turns to see who can reach the target.
- 6. Play again, as time allows.

GAME: BIBLE MEMORY VERSE BUBBLES

Purpose: Children blow bubbles as they listen and sing the Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse Song.

Supplies: Bubbles, bubble wand, Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse Song "Behold, I Am Coming Soon" or "The New Testament Overture," CD player

As we sing our Bible Memory Verse Song, let's take turns blowing bubbles. If you are seated, you may pop or blow the bubbles that float toward you.

Directions:

- 1. Seat children in a circle.
- 2. As the Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse Song plays, children sing along.
- 3. Teacher dips the wand in the bubbles and offers each child a turn at blowing on the wand.

THE WAY (GAME OPTIONS) continued...



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

PICTURE SCHEDULE: COLORING TIME

<u>WELCOME</u> > <u>WORSHIP</u> > <u>BIBLE</u> > <u>CRAFT</u> > <u>PRAYER</u> > <u>SNACK</u> > <u>GAMES</u> > <u>COLORING</u> > <u>GOING HOME</u>
Choose a child to remove the <u>GAMES</u> picture card and place it in the <u>FINISHED</u> envelope. **We have**finished our Game Time. Now, is our time for coloring the picture of today's story.

<u>COMPLETED CRAFT</u>: Take home your "God's Armor" craft. Tell someone about the invisible armor of God.

<u>DAILY WAY (ADAPTATION FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES</u>): Distribute this version of the Daily Way, if available. Show the Daily Way to your family. Talk about how you use each part of the armor of God to make you strong in the Lord.

<u>COLOR THIS STORY</u>: "A Letter from Paul About Strength." For today's Color This Story, use a picture of the armor of God or a knight in armor. Discuss the armor of God and play the Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse Song, "Behold, I Am Coming Soon" or "The New Testament Overture" as children color.

As coloring is completed or parents arrive:

PICTURE SCHEDULE: GOING HOME

WELCOME > WORSHIP > BIBLE > CRAFT > PRAYER > SNACK > GAMES > COLORING > GOING HOME

Choose a child to remove the <u>COLORING</u> picture card and place it in the <u>FINISHED</u> envelope. **We have finished our Coloring Time**. **Now**, it is time for Going Home.

THE DAILY WAY

Unit 6, Lesson 29: A Letter About God's Strength—Part 2

PONDER! Read Ephesians 6:10, 13, 15-18 with your family. To be strong in the Lord means to let Him make your heart strong to love Him and your mind strong to choose what is right in His eyes. Paul wanted his friends to know God makes them strong in the Lord. He said to put on the invisible armor of God. In what ways has God made you strong?

PRAY! Pray this prayer each day this week: "Lord, thank You for making us strong. Help us use Your strength to obey You and tell other people about Jesus! Amen."

PLAY! Without speaking, act out a picture of doing right in God's eyes. Have your family or friends guess what you are doing. Now, act out a picture of a way you can show God you love Him such as singing to Him, praying to Him, or reading the Bible.

Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse:

"Behold, I am coming soon." Revelation 22:12

Unit 6 Bible Memory Challenge Verse:

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path." Psalm 119:105 Optional: Memorize the names of the books of the New Testament.