DAY 13 - Prayer

Eph. 6:18 "And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints."

Paul ends his list of the pieces of the armor of God talking about prayer. How many times do you see prayer mentioned in verse 18? When a soldier steps into battle, he already has been in contact with his commanding officer. We are not stepping on to the battlefield of life alone and without a King to follow. He is with us every step of the way. It reminds me of our verse for Vacation Bible School this year – Isaiah 30:21

"and whenever you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear this command behind you: "This is the way. Walk in it."

Prayer is not just talking to God, it’s talking with God. Sometimes we need to do the listening! Not only is prayer talking with God, but any requests are made in the knowledge of Who He is and His ability and power! Prayer is asking for what God can do!

LOOK IT UP: 1 Thessalonians 5:17

Write this verse on the back of this card. Think about each word. What does it tell you about prayer?

Think about it....breathing is something you are constantly doing. Stop for a moment and see how long you can hold your breath. We have to breathe to live! Prayer can be a lot like breathing. We need to connect with God in prayer. Take several long deep breaths. As you breathe in ask God to fill your life, to draw you closer to Him. As you breathe out, confess to God areas of your life in which you've been disobedient to Him and ask for His forgiveness. Memorize 1 Thess. 5:17 now and let your constant breathing remind you also to continually pray – listen & talk with God. He is always with you!

PRAY: You’ve got this now! Take time to listen & talk with God! 😊

****This may be the last devotion in your packet, but don’t let anything stop you from spending time with God! Stand firm! Put on the armor of God! Pray continually! Read, study & memorize His Word! Not sure where to go now? Read through the Gospel of John & write down all God shows you!
**DAY 10 - Shoes of Peace**

Football cleats dig into the ground and give you traction - help you stand in position; so did the Roman soldier’s shoes.

**LOOK IT UP:** Ephesians 6:15

The gospel of peace - peace with God, keeps us grounded. This peace keeps us calm and standing strong when storms come into our life. We are grounded because of the good news that we can have peace with God through Jesus Christ!

Remember the story of Jesus calming the storm? Read it again in Mark 4:35-41. When the storm came, how do you think the disciples felt? When are some times you feel afraid and unsure? Sometimes storms may come in the form of sickness, sometimes through a family divorce, sometimes it may be changes in life like moving. The unknown or things we can’t control may cause us to be afraid and unsure. This is when we need to put on these “shoes of the Gospel of peace”! We can remember that God’s got this! God’s got us! We can stand firm in His peace and know He is in control and He loves and takes care of us!

Bad things come in this life; the world has fallen to sin. See what Jesus said in John 16:33! He told us there would be trouble in this world, but He has overcome the world and in Him we can have peace!

Before we leave, look up one more verse – Romans 8:28. We can have peace even when life is hard and bad things happen! This verse talks about how God can use all things (good & bad) for our good if we love Him. It’s like baking a cake…a raw egg or flour by themselves taste nasty! Mix them with sugar & other ingredients, and they turn into a wonderful, cake that is good!

**REMEMBER:** Satan tries to create worry and confusion in our lives, but knowing Jesus brings peace!

**PRAY:** Is there something worrying you or causing confusion or fear in your life right now? Talk to God about it and receive His peace to help you stand firm!

---

**DAY 11 - The Helmet of Salvation**

Think about who wears helmets besides Iron Man! I think of those riding motorcycles, military, construction workers, firemen, etc. It is important and vital to protect our head!

Eph. 6:17 "Take the helmet of salvation"

**LOOK IT UP:** Today I want you to take a journey through some verses. Take a look at each of the following verses and write down what they say about your mind and thoughts:

Romans 12:2
Philippians 4:8
Isaiah 26:3
Colossians 3:2
2 Corinthians 10:3-6

These are just a few places the Bible talks about how important our mind and thoughts are!

A very important piece of the armor of God, the helmet of salvation, protects our mind. It is there that as an act of the will we first choose Jesus. And it is there that we continue to consciously choose Him each and everyday. Our minds are attacked with ideas from the world, ideas that do not draw us closer to God. The helmet helps to guard our minds; it is His saving grace that purifies our thoughts.

**REMEMBER:** The helmet of salvation - Jesus came from heaven to earth to save us from the evil one, if we accept salvation in Jesus' name, we will win the battle against Satan.

**PRAY:** Ask God to guard your mind and thoughts. Thank Him that because of Jesus you can know that you know you have eternal life through Him! (1 John 5:13)

---

**DAY 12 - The Sword of the Spirit**

So far each of the weapons we have looked at are for defensive battle; they are to protect and guard. The next though is an offensive weapon – Eph. 6:17 "and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God."

**LOOK IT UP:** Hebrews 4:12 What is the Word of God called? The Bible gives us God’s Truth. Jesus used it as a weapon when He was in the desert with Satan tempting Him. Turn in your Bible to the Gospel of Matthew and read verses 1-11 of chapter 4.

What did Jesus answer Satan’s temptations with? The Bible is so important to us as Christians. I like how the New Living Translation translates 2 Timothy 3:16 – “All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right.”

The Bible is our guidebook in life and in our battle against Satan. Just as no soldier would go out to fight without his weapon, we should hide God’s Word in our hearts that we are never without it!

**REMEMBER:** The sword of the Spirit - the Bible, God's Holy Word, it is a powerful weapon against Satan.

**PRAY:** Thank God for giving you His Word. Ask Him to help you understand as you read, study and memorize it.
Day 7 - Our Enemy

Think about some of the weapons some of the Marvel Super Heroes had – Batman had all sorts of hidden weapons in the belt he wore; Captain America had his special shield; Ironman had a helmet that gave him all sorts of special information; and the list goes on! Each one had a different set of tools and abilities to fight against evil. God has given us tools and abilities to fight against evil too!

For the next few days, take time each and every day to be still in a special place and time without distractions and draw near to God using these devotions to get to know Him better and how He has equipped us to fight against evil. Always remember that in addition to all the armor of God; His greatest gift is that He is with us and fights for us!

LOOK IT UP: Turn to Ephesians 6 in your New Testament. Go ahead and read verses 10-18 and jot down all the pieces of armor God gives us. (Ex. belt of truth, …) Now go back and write down each thing we are to do such as “be strengthened”, “put on the armor”, “stand firm”, etc.

Now go back and look at verse 12. Who is our battle against?

Look up the following verses and see what they say about Satan. 1 Peter 5:8 & John 8:44 (Jesus was talking to the Pharisees)

The Bible has a lot to say about Satan and that we should be on guard, but also remember the truth of 1 John 4:4! (Write it below!)

Yes, Jesus is greater and because He lives with in us as believers through His Holy Spirit, we are more than conquerers!!!! One more verse today…Romans 8:37-39; what can separate us from the love of God that is in Jesus our Lord? …That’s right! NOTHING!!!

THINK ABOUT IT & REMEMBER: As believers we know the truth of the Bible…in the end, God wins!!! Jesus has already conquered death for us!

PRAY: Take time to thank God for fighting for you! Talk to Him about any fears you may have, and thank Him that no matter what, He is with you and NOTHING can separate you from His love in Jesus!

Day 8 - Belt of Truth

Remember our enemy is the father of lies. He knows how to twist the truth and trip us up in life. Have you ever thought things like, “No one cares about me.” or “I don’t matter.”? Those are lies; the truth is God loves you dearly and you matter to Him! He created you to be incredible!

LOOK IT UP: Our first piece of armor is described in Ephesians 6:14.

A Roman soldier’s belt was an important part of his armor. It gave security. It secured the other pieces of armor and also their long robes could be pulled up and tucked into the belt so they could run and move better. Truth in our life brings security.

The belt goes around the waist, the midsection. It secures the armor around that section. Truth brings assurance into our lives thereby also bringing security in Who we belong to & who we are in Jesus. I also think of it protecting us from always being led by our emotions. How many times do we refer to our midsection when we speak of our emotions - "I had a feeling in the pit of my stomach;” “My heart hurt for them.” We need to base our decisions on what is true & right, not on how we feel.

The next time you begin to think one of Satan’s lies like “I don’t matter” or “I messed up; God doesn’t love me anymore.”, go back to the Bible, God’s truth! Remember you matter to God so much that Jesus died for you! (John 3:16) Nothing can separate you from the love of God! (Romans 8:39) Jesus is with you and will never abandon you! (Hebrews 13:5-6)

The more you read and study the truth of God’s Word, the more you will be able to stand firm against the attacks of Satan.

REMEMBER: The Bible tells us that Satan is the “father of lies,” but he can never win if we will hold on to the truth that Jesus Christ is Lord

PRAY: Thank God for His truth and that you can wear it like a belt to give you security in life! Ask Him to help you remember to put on the belt of truth each and every day that you may stand firm in Him!

Day 9 - Breastplate of Righteousness

Many times the Bible talks about guarding our heart. If you’ve been through Awana, you learned Jeremiah 17:9. Remember it? If not, look it up and see what it says about the heart. Our heart is the seat of our desires and can determine?

LOOK IT UP: Ephesians 6:14 gives our next piece of armor.

We already mentioned that a breastplate protects the heart, but it also protects all the major organs – heart, lungs, liver, stomach, etc. It protects the organs that are functioning to keep you alive! But what is righteousness? It is the characteristic of being morally right or good, without sin. Isaiah 6:6 says our righteousness is like filthy rags; no protection in that! But God…He stepped in! Look up 2 Corinthians 5:21 and fill in the missing words:

For God made __________, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made __________ with God through Christ.

Jesus is our righteousness. He gives us eternal life and protects it for us. His righteousness covers us. It is like at a bank – Jesus gave us all of His righteousness in exchange He took all our sin on Himself. We are right with God because of what Jesus did on the cross for us. Satan may remind us of our sin, but if we have accepted Jesus and His forgiveness, His breastplate of righteousness covers us and protects us.

One more, see what Romans 3:22 says about righteousness; how do we receive it?

REMEMBER: Satan can never harm us when we choose to do what God says is right. We cover ourselves with Jesus’ righteousness!

PRAY: Thank God for sending Jesus and giving us life. Thank Him for protecting you. Satan is not able to take this eternal life from you. Thank God for being greater! Praise Him as your King!
DAY 6 - A Dynamic Duo

After a week of superheroes, you may be wishing for a superpower of your own! What would it be?

Well, when we accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior, He gives us His Holy Spirit to live within us – talk about SUPERPOWER! WOW! BAM!! SHAZAM!!!!

Don’t think now that you’re back at home, it’s all over! Our journey with Jesus is just beginning!

LOOK IT UP: Open up your Bible to Romans 8:9-11, and you will see it say that Jesus (Christ) lives within us through His Holy Spirit! Your Bible may say “dwell” or “indwell” which both mean to “live in”.

Turn to Philippians 1:6 in the New Testament and see what Paul says about this work that Jesus has begun in you! He didn’t start something new in you for you to finish; He promised He will keep on working on us to make us more and more like Him!

We may doubt because we can’t see the Holy Spirit. We can’t see the air either, but we can see when it moves the leaves on the trees or we hear it and feel it blowing! Look in the Gospel of John 3:8 to see what I mean!

THINK ABOUT: Go outside and see if the wind is blowing. Let it remind you that even though we may not see God, we can know He is with us and all around us and in us!

REMEMBER: God is for you! Jesus is our ONLY hero and desires to lead us each and every day as our Captain. We can trust Him with our life now and our life forever!

PRAY: If you already have accepted Jesus as your Savior and Lord (Captain), thank Him for saving you! Pledge your allegiance to Him; tell Him you want to live for Him and serve Him everyday from now on! And thank Him for living in you by His Holy Spirit!

DAY 5 - Back at Home!

God has spoken to you in a lot of way! You have learned you are incredible because you are:

* Created in God’s image – unique & special!
* Chosen by God; He sees your heart and wants you to choose Him
* Christ’s – when you belong to Jesus, you are never alone; you belong to His family
* Called – God has a special purpose and plan for your life!

LOOK IT UP: Go back through this past week’s devotions and find the day that most spoke to you. Look up those Bible verses and read them again.

THINK ABOUT: We’ve had fun learning about heroes of the Bible, but what’s next? How can you take what you’ve learned and experienced at camp and live it out in incredible ways for God as a hero in the world He has placed you?

What is God calling you to? Jesus showed us the greatest example of a true hero – to help in time of need and rescue. What need is God showing you…someone who needs your help? It may be a younger brother or sister that looks to you as an example of how to live for Jesus! It may be another student at school that needs a friend! It may be an elderly next door neighbor that could use a younger hand to help! Or it may be a stranger that needs a smile to give them hope! Put on your super-hero glasses and look at the world through the eyes of Jesus; let Him show you others that need His love.

God gives us tools, armor, weapons and more to help us be the “Incredible Me” we can be for Him! Over the next few weeks use the following devotions to point you to what God has to say about some of these in His Word, the Bible! Come on…let’s put on our superpowers!!!!

TAKE TIME TO PRAY & TALK TO GOD NOW!

DAY 4 - “The First Avenger”

Steve Rogers, better known as Captain America was the first of Marvel Comics’ group of heroes called “The Avengers”. He was known to stand for freedom and justice. He would stand up for anyone needing a hero. He was a weak young man that the army didn’t want until he became a part of a secret experiment called “Project: Rebirth” which made him a strong super soldier in World War II.

Of course we know Captain America was not a real man. There is a real Avenger or Redeemer like we talked about earlier this week. His name is Jesus. He is fully God and came to earth as fully man so that we could be rescued from death caused by sin. He is ready to save anyone willing to admit we need a hero…a Savior. Only Jesus can rescue us and give us eternal life. Yes, it is God’s “Project: Rebirth”. Jesus made a way for us to be born again as He says in the Gospel of John chapter 3!

LOOK IT UP: Jesus is the ultimate hero and He is REAL! He came to earth born as a man, lived a perfect sinless life, took our punishment on the cross, and was raised to life so that He can give His life to us! When we turn to Him admitting we need Him to rescue us because we have rebelled against God & sinned, He saves us and becomes our Lord…our Captain. We follow Him and let Him lead us into victory and into life!

THINK ABOUT: Have you accepted Jesus as your Lord & Savior? If so, what are some ways He is changing you to make you more like Him? Are you different than before?

REMEMBER: God is for you! Jesus is our ONLY hero and desires to lead us each and every day as our Captain. We can trust Him with our life now and our life forever!

PRAY: If you already have accepted Jesus as your Savior and Lord (Captain), thank Him for saving you! Pledge your allegiance to Him; tell Him you want to live for Him and serve Him everyday from now on!
DAY 1 - “I Am Chosen!”

Do you remember Spiderman’s real name? It was Peter Parker, and he was just an ordinary, even “nerdy” high school kid with problems fitting in just like everyone else! Peter got bitten by a radioactive spider, and his life was changed; he became Spiderman!

Now what happened to Peter Parker was random; it was an accident, and well, he wasn’t really real anyway! He reminds me of another Peter mentioned in the Bible who was real. His name was Simon Peter. What happened to him was anything but random or an accident…He was chosen!

Simon Peter was an ordinary young guy in the family work of fishing. He and his brother, Andrew, were out in their boat fishing away one day and catching NOTHING. Then they met Jesus!

LOOK IT UP: Find the Gospel of Matthew in your Bible. (Hint: It’s the first book in the New Testament.) Go to chapter 4 and read verses 18-20. Jesus chose Simon Peter and 11 other ordinary men to follow Him. They weren’t rich or super smart or super talented…they were 12 regular guys. They each had a choice of whether they would follow Jesus or not. Peter did follow Jesus, and God used him in incredible ways! Why he was the only one who walked on the water other than Jesus! Flip over to Matthew 14:23-33 and read it for yourself!

THINK ABOUT: What caused Peter to start sinking? What happens when we take our eyes off Jesus? When are some times in your own life you doubt? Jesus didn’t give up on Peter when he doubted, He reached out and saved Peter!

REMEMBER: Jesus has chosen me too! Salvation is not automatic though; He lets me choose whether I will follow Him or not.

PRAY: Thank God for sending Jesus to be your Avenger/Redeemer! Thank Him for choosing you & loving you!

DAY 2 - “I Am Not Alone!”

Bruce Wayne … He didn’t have what most other super heroes had. Did you ever realize that Batman had no super power?! He was an ordinary man that dressed up in a special suit and had some really cool gadgets; he had the Batmobile, but he did not have a super power! He couldn’t fly, climb high buildings or have super strength. What he did have though…was a helper, a friend that came alongside him – Robin.

In the Old Testament there is a man you may have heard of – Moses. We know God used Moses in an incredible way to lead the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt. Moses wasn’t anyone super or special; he was ordinary. In fact, many people think he may have stuttered! How was God going to use him when he had a problem talking?!

LOOK IT UP: Turn to the second book in your Bible and read Exodus 4:10-15. When Moses tells God that he can’t talk well, did God give up on him? (No!) Did God fix Moses? (No!) What did God do? Yes, God gave Moses a helper, someone to go with him, his brother, Aaron! Batman had Robin; Moses had Aaron…and did you notice God said He would be with them too?! You may feel like you’re just an ordinary kid with nothing special about you, but you are WRONG! God loves to choose ordinary kids just like you to do super-great, incredible things! We don’t need super human power when we have Jesus with us!

THINK ABOUT: Think about some of the people God has placed in your life to help you – maybe your parents, an older brother or sister, a teacher or friend. Now think about who are you being a helper or friend to?

REMEMBER: When we have Jesus, He promises to stay with us! We are NOT alone!

PRAY: Thank God for making you just the way you are! Thank Him for giving you friends & family, but most of all for Jesus Who promises to always be with you!

DAY 3 - “I Am Set Apart”

Dr. Bruce Banner was just a plain man until a gamma bomb made his anger turn him into the Hulk! His inner anger changed what he looked like. He became super strong and….super GREEN!

There is a man in the Bible that was also super strong and looked different from others too! He wasn’t green, but he had super long hair. His name was Samson. Samson was set apart as a child to live a life for God. Among other things, he was not to cut his hair. He was what they called a Nazarite.

LOOK IT UP: Judges 13:3-5 and Judges 16:26-30

From the time he was born, Samson was set apart for a purpose. God would use him to save His people, the Israelites, from the Philistines. Samson made mistakes in his life, but when Samson turned back to God and called to Him, God answered and gave Samson strength to fulfill his purpose.

THINK ABOUT: What are some ways God is using you or can use you right now in your life? What things are you good at? What are some things you really like to do? Those aren’t be accident! God can use them – sports, being friendly, good at math, taking care of pets, etc.

REMEMBER: God has a purpose and plan for your life too! He has set you apart for a special purpose. There may be times you mess up or sin against God. God promises if we turn back to Him and ask Him to forgive us, He will. Then He can use us again!

PRAY: Thank Him for being with you! Thank Him that He has an incredible plan and purpose for you life! If you need to ask Him for forgiveness and thank Him that He never gives up on you! He is for you & with you!