

Tennessee Right to Life
 SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE CURRICULUM
 Grade 6 - Week 2
PRESERVING LIFE: THE SPIRITUAL BATTLE

PERSPECTIVE FOR THE TEACHER

Our children need to know that “**overcoming evil with good**” does not happen by itself. Last week our lesson taught that God calls us to protect life. Esther is an example of one who was called to be brave in the preservation of the Jewish people. She asked for others to pray and fast with her for her role and the circumstances that had to be overcome. We, too, have a role to play in the preservation of lives. This week we will further develop an understanding of spiritual warfare and each student’s place in it, through a study of the Armor of God and the principles of fasting. We and our students must choose to do what is good and right, and we have available to us the Armor of God to strengthen us to overcome the evil of abortion.

In Daniel 11:32 (NASB) we read, “*The people who know their God will display strength and take action.*” You will help your students live this truth as they grow in strength and take action against abortion through prayer and fasting. This is a noble calling for them, even at their young age. They have a passion for life and a desire to please God. Here is a powerful way for them to begin a lifetime of practical participation in the battle which is “*not against flesh and blood, but against the principalities and powers of this present darkness*” (Ephesians 6:12, NASB).

SCRIPTURE:

Daniel 11:32b

James 5:15-16

Ephesians 6:10-18

Matthew 17:14-21 / Mark 9:14-29

Memory Verse: “*The people who know their God will display strength and take action!*”
 Daniel 11:32b (NASB)

LESSON GOALS:

- To teach the Armor of God and how we can use it in our prayer lives
- To make clear that the work to end abortion is both a practical and spiritual battle
- To introduce the concept of Spiritual Warfare
- To challenge the students to take part in the spiritual battle against abortion

THIS LESSON SHOULD HELP THE STUDENT:

- Understand fasting and its role in prayer.
- Understand the importance of prayer and fasting in the battle to end abortion.
- Realize that God has provided His armor to protect us and give victory in our lives.
- Understand how to use The Armor of God in prayer for the many people and issues included in the battle to end abortion.

VISUALS/SPECIAL PREPARATION:

- The Scripture memory verse written on the board
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TAKE HOME MATERIALS

- *Preserving Life/Spiritual Battle* worksheet
- *Armor of God* Bookmark

TEACHING THE LESSON

A. Introduction**1. Opening Prayer**

Heavenly Father, we ask for wisdom as we enter the battle to end abortion. As we know from Ephesians 6, our battle is not against flesh and blood, but against spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places - the schemes of the devil. We ask You to help us to be people of action and prayer, as Daniel was. Lord, help us to become effective prayer warriors. Thank You for hearing our prayers. Amen.

2. Review

How many of you have seen the local abortion clinic? What did you think when you saw it? Tell us what it looked like. *(It would be good to stress the ordinary brick and mortar reality of the clinic)* It looks like any ordinary business, doesn't it? An abnormal event, the systematic killing of unborn children, is occurring in a very normal-looking place. Seeing where abortions take place helps us to understand that it is real.

Abortions are really happening, and our Scripture verse reminds us that we must take action. Let's say it together. We talked last week about one form of action everyone can take. What was that? *(Prayer)* How do you think we should pray concerning the clinic and the people in it? *(Pray for the women, the doctors, the nurses, and any other people who work there.)*

Prayer is a spiritual weapon, and this is a spiritual battle. Because this is a spiritual battle, we are going to study the Armor of God this week. He has equipped us to (NASB) combat evil in our society and to help those in need. By understanding His Armor and putting it on through prayer, we effectively enter the battle to end abortion in our city, state and country.

B. Class Activity**1. The Armor of God**

(Read Ephesians 6:10-18.)

The Armor of God is given to every believer. The Bible reminds us of the strength we have in Christ; everything we need is provided in Christ's strength, not our own.

(Discuss each piece of God's Armor and how it is related to fighting abortion. For your further study, the Scripture verse for each application is included. It is fine to read each description, adding your own insight and practical applications.)

Piece of Armor**Scripture****Application****Belt of Truth**

(John 8:32)

Jesus is the truth, and the truth sets us free from what is false. The truth is that the unborn baby IS a person. Truth holds us and our Armor together!! Without truth, people begin to live according to what is right in their own eyes and not according to what God has declared is right.

Breastplate of Righteousness

(Exodus 20:13)

"Thou shall not kill." Abortion is murder and God has declared murder a sin. The Breastplate protects the warrior, as do all God's

commandments. We must cling to what is right. We must never believe Satan's lie that abortion is acceptable.

Shoes/Gospel of Peace (Ephesians 2:14a) Peace with God is found only in Jesus Christ. Abortion never brings peace!

Shield of Faith (Hebrews 11:1) Faith comes by believing God's truth about life. By praying for and working toward an end to abortion, our faith will be strengthened, and our shield will increase. In this way, we will be shielded from many fiery darts the devil will direct toward us in our struggle for the unborn.

Helmet of Salvation (Romans 12:1-2) We must be renewing our minds and not be conformed to a world that accepts abortion. We must keep our Helmet on! "Whatever is true, honorable, right, pure, lovely, of good repute, excellent, worthy of praise, let your mind think (dwell) on these things!" (Philippians 4:8). There is no aspect of abortion that is pure or lovely.

The Sword of The Spirit (Hebrews 4:12) Speaking the truth in love produces action and gets to the heart of any matter! We have Jesus' example when He was tempted in the wilderness and used the **Word of God** to defeat Satan (Matthew 4:1-11). As the Holy Spirit brings Scripture to our minds, He is giving us an active way to speak against the forces of evil and confusion that lead people to believe abortion is acceptable. The Scripture must be hidden in our hearts for the Holy Spirit's use! Psalm 139:13-15 is a wonderful example!

2. Praying with the Armor of God

Now let's spend a few minutes in prayer using the Armor of God and thanking Him for each piece. The following is a sample prayer:

Lord, Help me to wear

The **belt of truth**, that I might speak your truth about abortion,

The **footgear of zeal** to spread the Gospel of peace for all human life,

The **breastplate of righteousness**, that I might always act in accord with your will,

The **helmet of salvation** that I might never be conformed to the culture of death,

The **shield of faith** to extinguish the fiery darts of Satan, and

The **Sword of the Spirit** which is the word of God, that I might wield it powerfully and well in the cause of Life. Amen

C. Class Discussion

Fasting and Its Role in Prayer

The Armor of God reveals how practical God is. His Scripture gives us the words and the information to pray **for** what is good and **against** what is evil. In addition, He teaches us the concept of giving up regular activities in order to devote ourselves to prayer in matters that greatly concern us. Last week, we saw Esther's example as she called the people to prayer and fasting. We need to define fasting and understand God's purpose for it in our lives.

Simply put, fasting means to go without something. The Bible refers to going without food. Jesus fasted in the desert. Then before He ascended to Heaven, He gave his followers instructions to pray and fast when confronted with evil. How does fasting help? When we go without something like food, we get hungry, but we don't eat. Instead we use our hunger to help us remember to pray. In this way, we pray more, and when we are being obedient to God's laws,

we can be assured that our serious prayer will be heard. In James 5:15-16, we read, “*The fervent prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.*” And so we combine our prayer with our fasting to defeat abortion.

Jesus gives us an example. (*Read Matthew 17:14-21 or Mark 9:17-29 KJV.*) In this Scripture, an evil spirit ruled the life of a boy, and his father went to Jesus for help. Jesus said such evil can only be vanquished by prayer and fasting. In the same way, we know that thousands of deaths by abortion are occurring every day. This is a great evil, and we can go to Jesus, praying and fasting for help on behalf of the unborn babies and those involved with abortion.

This week you will have a chance to talk with your parents about what you have learned. You will decide if you want to commit to a special time of prayer and fasting for an end to abortion. You can use this bookmark to help you pray with The Armor of God. For your fast, you and your parents may decide it would be good for you to fast on a certain day each week - from your favorite dessert, video games, a television program or eating between meals.

D. Closing

1. Summary

In closing, let us remember some of the things we learned today.

- We heard about the experience of driving by the abortion mill.
- We learned how God wants to use the Armor of God in our lives
- We spent time praying through the Armor of God to enter the battle against abortion.

2. Closing Prayer

Remember to pass out the Take Home Packets.

Follow-up next week:

We hope that you will ask those students who fasted to talk about their experiences. Encourage the students in this endeavor and include your own experiences, mentioning it periodically throughout the school year.