



We Are Soldiers

Author: Annette R. Evans

P_{review}

2 Timothy 2:3 (NKJV) says, “You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.”

One hardship of a soldier’s life involves food. Soldiers must often survive on repetitive meals of tasteless food. The emphasis is on nutrition that is easily transportable and resists spoilage. Historically, soldiers have eaten lots of hard biscuits or crackers. And during World War II, American soldiers ate a lot of SPAM, a canned meat. There is much debate about whether or not SPAM is tasty. (*Serve some SPAM and share opinions on taste, texture, and desirability.*)

P_{raise}

Discuss favorite foods you would miss in the life of a soldier and/or share stories of family members or friends who have served in the military. Take a moment to give thanks for soldiers.

P_{arable}

Show some pictures of modern soldiers and also some from history, including knights. Briefly discuss/compare the weapons and protective gear.

The apostle Paul compared us to soldiers but he said we don’t fight with conventional weapons —whether arrows, spears, swords, guns, tanks, bombs, etc.

*Read **2 Corinthians 10:4-5** from your Bible.*

God gives us mighty weapons (His Spirit, His Word) to bring down everything that is against Him!

P_{resent}

Paul described the Christian’s protective gear in Ephesians. He called it the “armor of God.”
*Read **Ephesians 6:13-17** from your Bible.*



Show "Armor of God Visuals" (tape the pages together beforehand so they hang vertically):
<http://www.creative-sunday-school-ideas.com/support-files/Armor-of-God-Visuals.pdf>

You cannot be a good soldier of Jesus Christ if you're not wearing His armor. You cannot make your own armor. *His* salvation, righteousness, truth, peace, and faith are your only protection. *His* Word is your only weapon.

- Why do we need a weapon? What are we fighting *against*? (discuss the following)
Read **Ephesians 6:11-12** from your Bible.
We are fighting against the devil and spirits of darkness and evil, against temptation and sin, against everything that is against God. As soldiers of Jesus Christ, it's important to remember we are not fighting against *people!* This is a spiritual battle.

Soldiers don't just fight *against* things. They fight *for* a cause.

- What are we fighting for? (discuss the following)
Read **1 Timothy 6:12** from your Bible.
We are fighting for faith and eternal life. We are fighting for everything Jesus Christ stands for.

Practice

Fight the good fight!

1. Whenever we guard our thoughts, remembering Jesus has saved and cleansed us, we're fighting the good fight. (*Helmet of Salvation*)
 2. Whenever we do good instead of evil, we're fighting the good fight. (*Breastplate of Righteousness*)
 3. Whenever we tell the truth instead of lying, we're fighting the good fight. (*Belt of Truth*)
 4. Whenever we share the gospel (the good news about Jesus), we're fighting the good fight. (*Shoes of the Gospel of Peace*)
 5. Whenever we have faith that God will do what He says, we're fighting the good fight. (*Shield of Faith*)
 6. Whenever we read, study, memorize, teach, or preach God's Word, we're fighting the good fight. (*Sword of Spirit— Word of God*)
- Why is it important to keep fighting and never give up (surrender) to the devil? (discuss, including the following)



Listen to what the apostle Paul said at the end of his life. *Read **2 Timothy 4:7-8** from your Bible.*

There's a reward for faithful soldiers!

Pray

Let's pray right now that we will be good soldiers. Let's ask God to fully cover us with His armor. Let's commit to Bible study and prayer—to becoming skilled with the weapons He has given us.

Plus

Read **2 Timothy 2:4** this week and consider whether there is something that is entangling you and keeping you from pleasing the One who has chosen you to be a soldier.