Preschool Bootcamp

Day 1

Memory Verse: 1 Corinthians 16:13

Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be men of courage; be strong.

Lesson Preparation:

Prepare your helium balloons and "SIN" cards as described in the "Supplies and Instructions for Bootcamp" document.

Introduction:

Welcome to the Army, recruits! It's war out there, and my job is to make you understand that each and every one of you has been taken prisoner by the enemy. To show you what I mean, I'll be using my Field Manual, which is the Holy Bible. So, PAY ATTENTION!

Psalm 100:5

For the LORD is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.

Question (1 point): Is God a good guy or a bad guy?

ANSWER: God is a GOOD GUY!

Action:

Take the "GOD" balloon out of its bag and let if float to the ceiling.

Explain:

God is a good, just, and holy God, and He is high above everything else in the universe. But God is also creative; so, one day, God decided to create the universe.

1 Timothy 4:4-5

For everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, because it is consecrated by the word of God and prayer.

Question (1 point): Did God create anything that wasn't good?

ANSWER: No!

Genesis 1:26

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

Question (1 point): Whose image was man made in?

ANSWER: Man was made in God's image.

Action:

Take out one "US" balloon and let it float toward the ceiling.

Explain:

So God, who is good, made man to be like HIM. That means that when God made Adam and Eve, THEY were good. In fact, God wanted people to be close to Him because He loved them. See how close "GOD" and "US" were supposed to be?

Action:

Select three volunteers and bring them to the front. Tie one of the remaining "US" balloons to each child's shoe.

Discussion Question (no points):

Q. See how close God WANTED us to be to Him? Wouldn't it be cool to be able to be close to God like that?

Explain:

Since everything God created is good, you may be wondering why there's so much evil in the world. It all started when the enemy ATTACKED Adam and Eve. You see, God gave Adam a very important command to follow:

Genesis 2:16-17

And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die."

Explain:

But then, a clever serpent (our enemy) came along and fired the first shot in our war by playing a trick on Eve.

Genesis 3:4-5

"You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman. "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

Question (1 point): Was the serpent telling the truth?

ANSWER: No!

Question (1 point): Did Adam and Eve KNOW they weren't supposed to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil?

ANSWER: Yes!

Explain:

Well guess what? Adam and Eve did what the SERPENT wanted INSTEAD of what GOD wanted. And the minute they did that, it RUINED EVERYTHING!

Action:

Slowly pull the first "US" balloon down as you explain:

Explain:

The minute Adam and Eve disobeyed God, they SINNED, and that's EVIL. That changed the very NATURE of who Adam and Eve were. Instead of having the image of God, they became evil at heart. That means that in their hearts, they wanted to do evil more than they wanted to do good.

Action:

Tie one "SIN" card to the first "US" balloon to weigh it down.

Explain:

So now, Adam and Eve couldn't be close to God anymore, because SIN took them prisoner and weighed them down!

Proverbs 5:22

The evil deeds of a wicked man ensnare him; the cords of his sin hold him fast.

Question (1 point): Look at this balloon. Can it get close to God as long as this cord holds it down with sin?

ANSWER: No!

Explain:

The problem is that every one of us comes from Adam and Eve. So, if Adam and Eve were sinners, that means that all of US are too!

Action:

Go to each volunteer who has a balloon tied to their shoes and ask them if they've ever sinned. When they say "yes," point out that the cords of sin are holding THEM prisoner too. Pull down their balloon and tie a SIN card to it to weigh it down. Do this with each volunteer.

Discussion Question (no points):

Q. Did you know that each and every one of you was made a prisoner and a slave to sin because of what happened to Adam and Eve?

John 8:34

Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. "

Discussion Questions (no points):

- Q. That serpent who tricked Adam and Eve made all of us PRISONERS! Are you guys HAPPY about that?
- Q. Is that something that a friend would do, or an ENEMY?
- Q. In a war, do we do what our enemy wants, or do we FIGHT him?

1 Peter 5:8-9

Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

Explain:

The serpent who tricked Adam and Eve was the devil, and he wants to destroy each and every one of you! The devil is powerful, and by ourselves, we can't beat him. But there IS someone who CAN, and if we fight with Him, we can WIN THIS WAR!

John 8:34-36

Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

Question (1 point): Who can set us free from our slavery to sin?

ANSWER: Jesus!

Explain:

Jesus can set us free from sin so that we can be close to God as we were meant to be. That's because Jesus fought a mighty battle with the enemy and won! You see, sin makes us all die. But Jesus NEVER sinned. Jesus came to earth and died in our place so that He could get rid of all our sin for us. Then, He came back to life, which means that WE can come back to life too if we let Jesus take away our sin. If we ask Jesus to save us and free us from sin, we will be free indeed!

Action:

Cut the string from the "SIN" card from the first balloon to allow it to float back into the air.

Discussion Question (no points):

Q. See how close we can be to God when we aren't weighed down by sin?

Action:

Go to each of the three children who have balloons tied to their shoes and ask them who can free them from sin. When they say "Jesus," cut the "SIN" cards off their balloons to release them. Do this with all three volunteers.

Salvation Prayer:

Explain to the children that they can ask Jesus to free them from their slavery to sin right now. Explain that the children can pray to receive Christ. Then lead the children who want to in a prayer of salvation.

For those who pray to receive Christ, we suggest giving them a copy of the discipleship materials from the BOOT Camp CD-ROM. These materials can help them understand what their decision means.

Explain:

Once we ask Jesus into our hearts, our sins are forgiven, and we will be able to go to heaven someday. Until we go to heaven, though, we will STILL sin sometimes, because we still have our sinful nature until we die. So be careful not to get trapped by sin, and when you do, admit it to Jesus right away so that He can take it away!

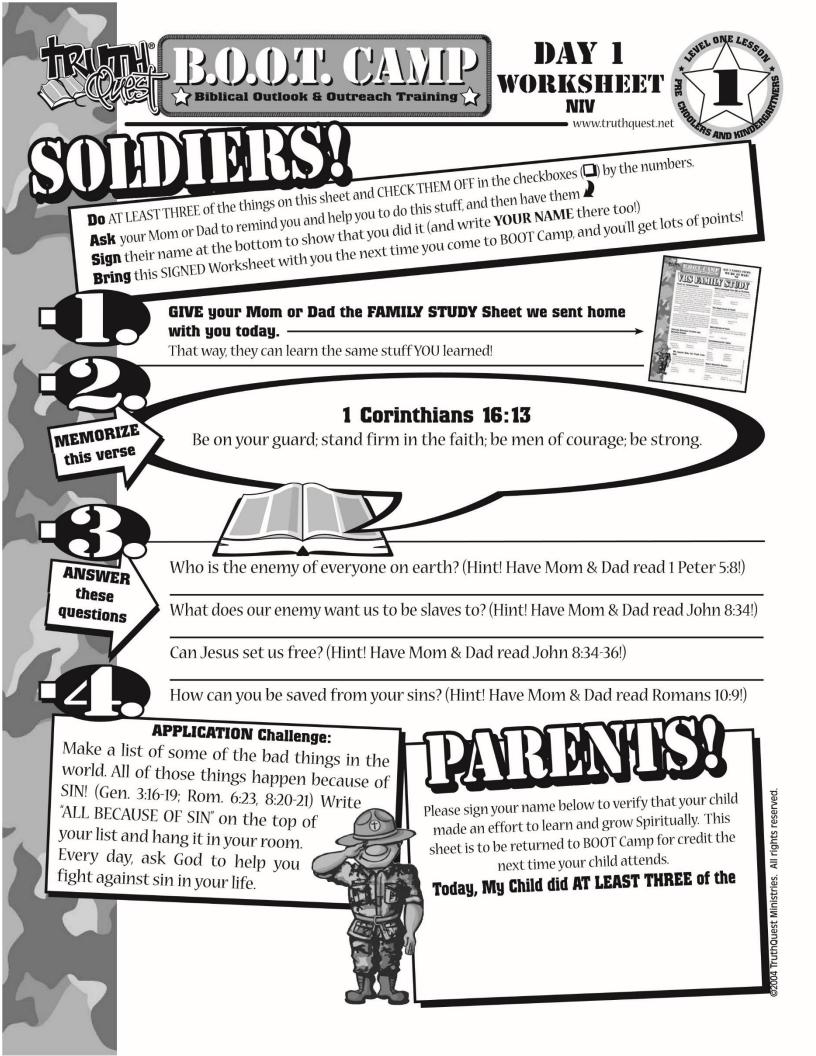
Conclusion:

We're at war! The enemy wants to destroy us, but if you asked Jesus into your heart, either today or sometime in the past, you are a SOLDIER for Christ. We will learn during our BOOT Camp how to fight in this war, but the main objective is to live for Jesus and obey Him! If you do that, you'll already be fighting for Jesus. So get ready to fight!!

Take Home Sheets:

Take Home Sheets:

Give each child a Take Home Sheet (see copy of the sheet on the next page). You may prefer to wait and hand out the sheets as the children leave bootcamp for the day. But at least tell the children about the sheets and that you want them to take them home and work on them with their parents.



Preschool Bootcamp

Day 2

Memory Verse: 1 Peter 3:18

For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God.

Lesson Supplies:

- A 6-volt battery (the large ones used to power lanterns)
- A Bible
- A piece of bread in a clear sandwich bag
- A calendar
- A canteen full of water
- A first-aid kit
- A large flashlight (the type that uses 6-volt batteries)
- A map
- A pair of binoculars
- A backpack or duffle bag which can hold all the above items

Pack all of the items into a military-looking pack, a backpack, or duffle bag.

Introduction:

Attention, soldiers! Today, we're going to learn about our Almighty God, who is the Commander-in-Chief of our whole Army! Each one of you should learn as much as you can about our God, and to give you a taste of how awesome a Commander He is, just listen to this!

Revelation 4:8b

"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come."

Explain:

The most important thing to know about God is that He's HOLY! That means He's more pure, more wonderful, brighter and better than anything in the universe. On top of all that HE LOVES each and every one of you! In fact, He loves us so much that He sent His ONLY SON, Jesus Christ, to come and free us all from the enemy's trap! And if you don't believe that, listen to this!

1 Peter 3:18

For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God.

Question (1 point): Who's Son is Jesus Christ?

ANSWER: God's Son.

Question (1 point): Do you think God loves His Son?

ANSWER: Yes!

Explain:

You bet He does! That should tell you how much God loves YOU. God was actually willing to send His ONLY SON, whom He LOVES, to earth, where He lived for a while, taught people, healed the sick, and then DIED to free you from your sin! He suffered and gave up everything He had to save YOU! Then, He came back to life and ascended up into heaven, where He lives FOREVER!

Discussion Question (no points):

Q. Is God a Commander-in-Chief YOU want to follow?

Explain:

Well, we're going to teach you why we should follow God and fight on His side! In the Lord's Army, all good soldiers take Jesus with them everywhere they go. If you've asked Jesus into your heart, God's Holy Spirit is ALWAYS with you!

Action:

Draw the kids' attention to the backpack you've prepared.

Explain:

Having Jesus WITH us is like having a well-supplied pack with you when you go into battle. All the things in this pack remind us of something about Jesus, and we're going to unpack it now so you can see what an awesome God He is!

Teacher's Note:

For the next part of the lesson, you will be selecting volunteers to come up and randomly take items out of the backpack:

1. Select a volunteer to come to the front and remove one item at random from the pack.

2. Show the kids the item (you can pass it around if you like) and find that item in the list below.

3. Once you find the item on the list, explain how the item reminds us of Jesus, read the Scriptures associated with the item, and ask the questions that accompany the item.

4. Select another volunteer and repeat steps 1-4 until the pack is empty, then finish the lesson.

Items in the Pack:

Battery: God is All-Powerful

This battery has enough energy to power the soldier's flashlight, but God is ALL-POWERFUL. That means He can do ANYTHING!

Luke 1:37

For nothing is impossible with God."

Question (1 point): Is there anything that God can't do?

ANSWER: No!

Bible: Jesus is the Word

Some soldiers carry Bibles with them. The Bible tells us that Jesus actually IS the Word. That doesn't mean that your Bible IS Jesus, but the words inside are HIS!

John 1:1

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Question (1 point): Who is "the Word? ANSWER: Jesus!

Binoculars: All-Seeing, All-Knowing

Binoculars can help a soldier to see things that are far away, but God sees EVERYTHING. Not only that, He KNOWS everything!

Hebrews 4:13

Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

Question (1 point): Is there anything in the world that God doesn't know?

ANSWER: No! God knows EVERYTHING!

Bread: The Bread of Life

Soldiers need food to eat to keep them alive. Jesus is the Bread of Life, and HE keeps us going, just like food does.

John 6:35

Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty. "

Question (1 point): How can Jesus keep us going like food does?

ANSWER: He encourages us; He shows us what to do; He helps us; He saves us from our sin.

Calendar: God is Eternal

Some soldiers might carry calendars to know what day it is, but God is above time and dates. God is ETERNAL, which means He has no beginning and no end. He has always been and will always be.

Hebrews 13:8

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

Question (1 point): How long will Jesus be around?

ANSWER: Forever!

Canteen: Living Water

The canteen holds water for soldiers to drink to keep them alive. Jesus is our LIVING WATER.

John 7:38

[Jesus said,] "Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him."

Question (1 point): How is Jesus like water?

ANSWER: When we're thirsty, He satisfies us; He keeps us alive.

First Aid Kit: Healer of Souls

A first aid kit helps us to heal our wounds, but Jesus heals our SOULS by taking away our sin!

1 Peter 2:24

He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.

Question (1 point): What is Jesus more like; a band-aid, or life-saving surgery?

ANSWER: Jesus is like life-saving surgery, because He heals our souls!

Flashlight: The Light of the World

Soldiers need light to see where they're going. Jesus is the Light of the World, and He lights the way to godliness.

John 8:12

When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

Question (1 point): Darkness is the absence of light. So, **without** Jesus, are you in darkness, or light? ANSWER: Without Jesus, we're in darkness. That's why we need Him.

Map: Ever-Present; God is Everywhere

A map can help a soldier to find his way, but no matter where he goes, God is there, because God is EVERYWHERE!

Jeremiah 23:24

Can anyone hide in secret places so that I cannot see him?" declares the LORD. "Do not I fill heaven and earth?" declares the LORD.

Question (1 point): If God is everywhere, will He ever lose you?

ANSWER: No!

Once the Pack is Empty, Finish the Lesson Below:

Explain:

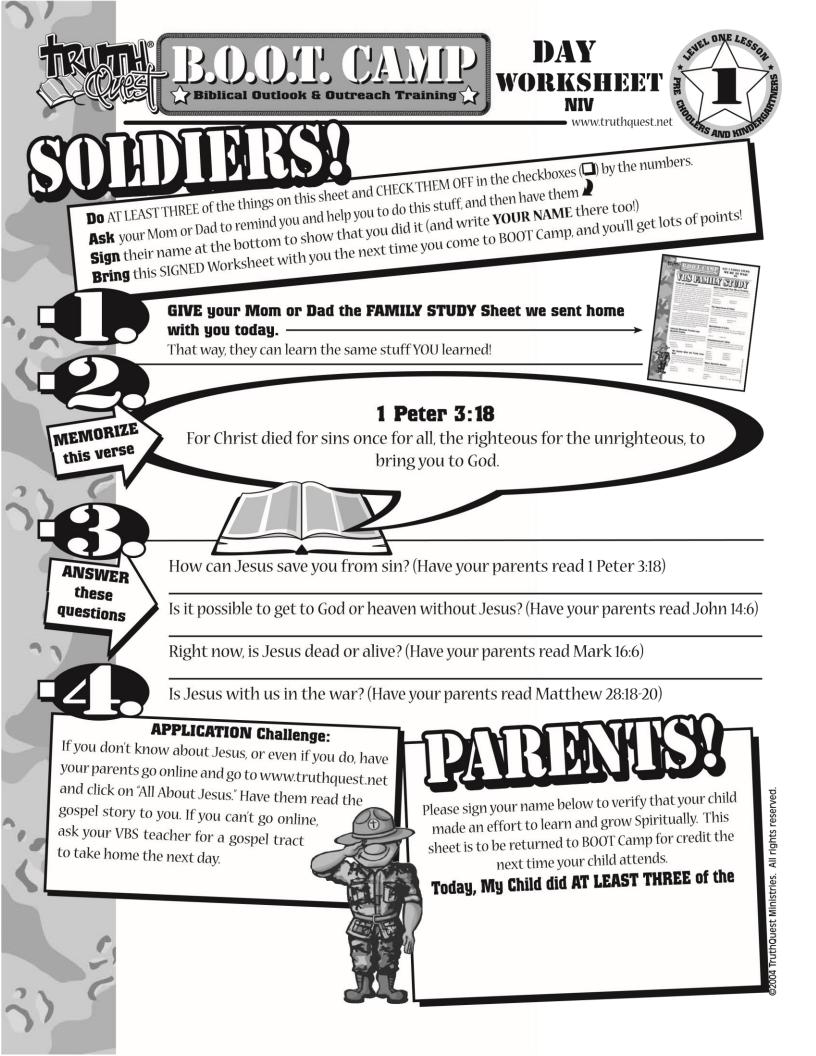
The things in this pack are things that a soldier might need with him or her out on the battlefield, and each one of these things reminds us of God. But God is of much more help to us than this pack is. This pack needs to be carried, but God isn't like that. That's because instead of us carrying God with us, He's the one who carries US!

Conclusion:

God is our Commander-in-Chief. God is a good, just, holy and wonderful God. We need Him with us wherever we go, because this whole world is a battlefield. So learn all you can about God, because He's the one who will win this war.

Take Home Sheets:

Give each child a Take Home Sheet (see copy of the sheet on the next page). You may prefer to wait and hand out the sheets as the children leave bootcamp for the day. But at least tell the children about the sheets and that you want them to take them home and work on them with their parents.



Preschool Bootcamp

Day 3

Memory Verse: James 4:7

Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Lesson Preparation:

Supplies

- The Day 3 Object Lesson Diagram Page
- One large metal binder clip
- A box of small paper clips
- One strong bar magnet

Prepare the paper boy, along with your binder clip, paper clips, and magnet as directed by the Day 3 Lesson Preparation page.

Introduction:

Attention, troops! Today we are learning about our enemy! The reason we're learning this is because every good soldier needs to be able to recognize the enemy so that you can escape his attacks.

1 Peter 5:8

Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

Question (1 point): Who is your enemy?

ANSWER: The devil, or Satan.

Question (1 point): Does the devil want to help you, or DESTROY you?

ANSWER: He wants to destroy us.

Explain:

Satan is a dangerous and brutal enemy, soldiers! He hates God, and he hates all of you! He will stop at nothing to destroy you. Jesus said in John 8:44 that Satan was a murderer and a liar.

2 Corinthians 11:14

And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light.

Question (1 point): Even though he is a liar, what does Satan PRETEND to be?

ANSWER: An angel of light.

Explain:

Remember, troops, Satan is a master of disguise. He is not a red, horned lizard with a beard who carries a pitchfork. The devil is known for making himself and his schemes look appealing and attractive, but don't fall for it, because he's trying to hurt you!

Satan's First Attack:

1. Show the kids some of the paper clips and magnets and have them imagine that all of those things represent SIN.

2. Show the children the cutout boy that came with this lesson and have them imagine that this is Adam and Eve.

3. Explain that when God first made Adam and Eve, they were made in His image. They didn't have any sin in them, and they didn't have any attraction to sin.

4. Demonstrate that the paper cutout boy isn't attracted to the magnet or paper clips and that they don't stick to him.

5. Explain that in Genesis 2:17, God commanded Adam not to eat fruit from the tree of knowledge of good and evil, because if they did, they would surely die.

6. Now, hold the binder clip nearby the paper cutout boy. Explain that shortly after Adam and Eve were created, Satan came to Eve as a serpent and pretended to be her friend.

Genesis 3:4-5

"You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman. "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

Explain:

Soldiers, that was Satan's first attack! Satan told Eve that she WOULDN'T die if she ate from the tree and that eating the fruit would make her like God. Take note of these tactics:

Question (1 point): Did Satan announce himself as the devil, or did he pretend to be friendly?

ANSWER: He pretended to be friendly.

Question (1 point): Did Satan make the fruit from the tree of knowledge of good and evil sound good, or bad?

ANSWER: He made it sound good.

Question (1 point): Did Satan tell Eve that she would get into trouble if she ate from the tree?

ANSWER: No. He told her she WOULDN'T get into trouble.

Adam and Eve are Trapped:

1. Explain that Eve listened to Satan, and she believed him. She believed that the fruit wouldn't hurt her and that it would make her like God. Explain that both SHE AND ADAM fell for Satan's lies and disobeyed God.

2. Hold the binder clip up next to the paper cutout boy, and like a trap, close the binder clip on the cutout boy as shown in the Object Lesson Diagram.

3. Explain that when Adam and Eve fell for Satan's lies and disobeyed God, they were caught in a deadly trap that they could never escape from--the trap of SIN!

Romans 6:23a

For the wages of sin is death.

Explain:

Sin is a deadly toxic poison in our lives which eventually kills us and separates us from God who gives us life.

The Sinful Nature:

1. Explain that, now that Adam and Eve were prisoners of sin, they became attracted to sin.

2. Hold the magnet up near the paper cutout boy (which now has a metal binder clip on him) and show the children how the magnet sticks to the paper boy.

3. Explain that everywhere a prisoner of sin goes, they are ATTRACTED to more and more sins, because their hearts have become sinful.

4. Move the paper boy with the magnet stuck to him over the metal paper clips you've spread out and show the children how the paper clips are attracted to the paper boy.

5. Explain that Satan's attack on Adam and Eve made us ALL prisoners to sin. Since we all come from Adam and Eve, who became sinners, WE are all sinners too.

Romans 3:23

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

Explain:

Our sinful hearts are Satan's greatest weapon! Satan doesn't usually attack us directly, and he can't MAKE us do anything.

Satan can only do what God ALLOWS him to do. But Satan DOES use YOUR OWN SINFUL HEART as a weapon against you.

James 1:13-14

When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed.

Question (1 point): According to these verses, who's fault is it when we're tempted to do evil? Satan's, or our OWN evil desire?

ANSWER: Our own evil desire.

The Enemy's Greatest Weapon:

1. Take some of the paper clips off of the paper cutout boy, leaving the magnet and binder clip stuck to him.

2. Explain to the kids that because of Satan's attack and Adam and Eve's choice to sin, we are all stuck in the trap of sin like this paper cutout boy. We are ATTRACTED to sin.

3. Wave the paper boy with the magnet over the paper clips again and show the kids how the paper clips are attracted.

4. Explain that our sinful hearts are attracted to more deadly sin. The more sin we have, the more we are attracted to it.

James 1:15

Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

Explain:

You see? Because of our sinful hearts, we're attracted to more and more deadly sin which hurts us and keeps us away from God, just like the enemy wants! There is only one way to defend yourselves against this weapon, and it's JESUS!

Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Defense Against Sin:

1. Explain that if we ask Jesus into our hearts to be our Lord and Savior, He can take away our sin!

2. As the kids watch, remove all of the paper clips and magnets from the cutout boy (but leave the binder clip on).

3. Explain that Jesus takes the sin away so that we can have fellowship with Him, but since we still have sinful hearts, we'll still be drawn to sin.

4. Wave the paper boy with the binder clip and magnet over the paper clips until they stick to him.

5. Explain that when we give our lives to Jesus, whenever we sin, all we have to do is to tell Jesus that we have sin in our lives and ask Him to take it away, and He will!

6. Remove all of the paper clips and magnets again.

7. Explain that one day in heaven, Jesus will even get rid of our sinful nature so we won't be attracted to sin anymore.

8. Remove the binder clip and wave the paper boy over the paper clips, pointing out that he isn't attracted to them.

Explain:

Jesus is our best defense against sin. When Jesus saves us, He sends us the Holy Spirit to live in our hearts. He also protects us from sin, if we do what He tells us.

Romans 8:6

The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace.

Explain:

Another important defense God has given us is PRAYER. We are supposed to PRAY that we won't be tempted to do evil.

Matthew 26:41

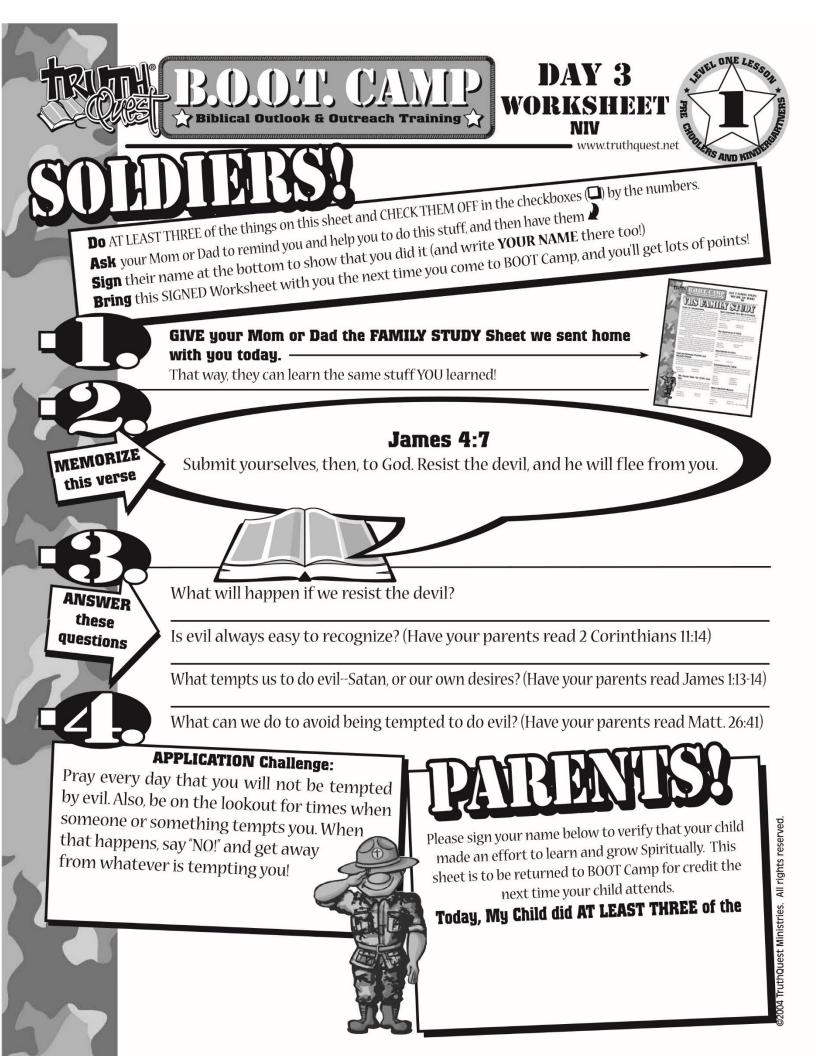
"Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak."

Conclusion:

Satan is a powerful and clever enemy, and he has poisoned all of us with sinful hearts. Now, when we sin, it's our OWN FAULT. But Jesus can take that sin away if we ask Him to save us. If we listen to the Holy Spirit and pray that we won't be tempted, we can watch out for the enemy's schemes and avoid the traps of sin

Take Home Sheets:

Give each child a Take Home Sheet (see copy of the sheet on the next page). You may prefer to wait and hand out the sheets as the children leave bootcamp for the day. But at least tell the children about the sheets and that you want them to take them home and work on them with their parents.



Preschool Bootcamp

Day 4

Memory Verse: Ephesians 6:11A

Put on the full armor of God.

Lesson Preparation:

Supplies:

- 1. Two small paper cups labeled #1 and #2 respectively
- 2. A table
- 3. Six quarters
- 4. An old belt (or an army belt)
- 5. A vest (or a bulletproof vest)
- 6. An old pair of shoes (or a large pair of combat boots)
- 7. An umbrella (or a riot shield)
- 8. A hat (or an army helmet)
- 9. A Bible (or a bayonet)
- 10. A volunteer from the class

11. The "Armor of God" poster from the "Helpful Aids" section of the BOOT Camp CD-ROM (optional)

When the lesson time begins, select a volunteer from the class and bring him/her to the front.

Ephesians 6:11

Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.

Explain:

Armor is protective gear that people wear to protect themselves against getting hurt. Armor is usually made of hard, strong material so that if something hits us, it will bounce off our armor and not hurt us. Each kind of armor might be made of something different and do a different job. Let's look at the Armor of the Lord to see how it can protect US!

1. Belt of Truth

Ephesians 6:14

Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place...

Discussion Question (no points):

Q. Many people need to wear a belt around their waist to help them do their jobs. What kinds of things do some people wear on their belts to help them?

A. Tools, gun holsters, walkie-talkies, etc.

Action:

Put a belt on your volunteer.

Question (1 point): What are we supposed to wear buckled around our waist?

ANSWER: The belt of truth.

Explain:

Belts are usually made of very strong material. God has given us an imaginary belt called the belt of truth, which is very strong! In fact, the Truth is what holds everything we do in place! Without God's Truth, we wouldn't know the difference between right and wrong! And like a belt, the Truth will hold the rest of God's armor in place so all of it can protect us!

Action:

Draw the children's attention to Cup #1 as you put a quarter into it. Explain that this cup has just put on a piece of armor. Also, have all the children pretend to put on a belt of Truth.

2. Breastplate of Righteousness

Ephesians 6:14

Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place...

Discussion Question (no points):

Q. Police officers sometimes wear special vests to protect them if a bad guy tries to shoot them. What other things do people wear on their chests to protect them?

A. Road workers wear bright vests so people can see them, football players wear padding, etc.

Action:

Put a vest on your volunteer.

Proverbs 4:23

Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life.

Question (1 point): What does it look like the breastplate of righteousness is supposed to guard? ANSWER: It's supposed to guard our hearts.

Explain:

A breastplate is like a metal shirt that someone wears to protect their heart. God has given us an imaginary breastplate which is made of righteousness. "Righteousness" means that we always try to do what's right, and it's very strong stuff! Righteousness will guard our hearts, just like a breastplate!

Action:

Draw the children's attention to Cup #1 as you put another quarter into it. Explain that this cup has just put on another piece of armor. Also, have all the children pretend to put on a breastplate of righteousness.

3. Feet Fitted with Readiness

Ephesians 6:14-15

Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.

Discussion Question (no points):

Q. Since the ground is often rocky or slippery, people wear shoes to protect their feet and help them to walk and run. What kinds of things do people wear on their feet?

A. Running shoes, combat boots, snow boots, etc.

Action:

Put the shoes or boots on your volunteer.

Question (1 point): What part of God's armor are we talking about now?

ANSWER: Feet fitted with readiness

Question (1 point): Who can run faster--someone who has good running shoes, or someone who has NO shoes

ANSWER: The person with good shoes can run faster.

Explain:

A soldier needs to have good boots on his feet so he can run away from danger or quickly attack the enemy. God has given us imaginary shoes which are made of "readiness," which means that we're always ready to go! If our feet are always ready, we can run away from danger, or we can tell people about Jesus, or go and do other things God tells us to do!

Action:

Put another quarter in cup #1 and have the kids pretend to put on boots.

4. Shield of Faith

Ephesians 6:16

In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.

Discussion Question (no points):

Q. Some police officers have to hold big shields in front of them to protect them from rocks and bottles that bad guys might throw at them. What things do some people use to shield themselves from things?

A. Umbrellas shield us from rain, trees shade us from sun, etc.

Action:

Open up the umbrella and have your volunteer hold it in front of him/her like a shield.

Question (1 point): What part of God's armor are we talking about now?

ANSWER: The shield of faith.

Explain:

A shield is something you hold in your hand to protect your whole body. You can move a shield to wherever you need the most protection.

Question (1 point): What is the shield of faith supposed to protect us from?

ANSWER: The flaming arrows of the evil one.

Explain:

God calls His shield the "shield of faith." Faith is putting your trust in God and always sticking with Him. When we trust God, we are protecting ourselves from Satan's attacks. When we remain faithful to God, our shield of faith will help to protect us from spiritual attacks.

Action:

Put another quarter in cup #1 and have the kids pretend to hold shields in front of them.

5. Helmet of Salvation

Ephesians 6:17

Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Discussion Question (no points):

Q. Some people wear special armor on their heads. What do some people wear to protect their heads?

A. Fireman's hats, soldier helmets, hard hats, etc.

Action:

Put the hat or helmet on your volunteer.

Question (1 point): Why is a helmet important for soldiers to wear?

ANSWER: A helmet protects their heads.

Explain:

If our heads are seriously injured, we will die. That's why we wear helmets. Salvation is like a helmet that protects us from the ultimate death, which is separation from God (hell). Salvation means we have accepted Jesus as our Savior. Without salvation in Jesus, the rest of our armor really won't help us much. Kind of like a football player without a helmet, sooner or later we will get hurt very badly without salvation! So, be sure to wear the helmet of salvation!

Action:

Put another quarter in cup #1 and have the children pretend to put on helmets.

6. The Sword of the Spirit

Ephesians 6:17

Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Question (1 point): What is the Sword of the Spirit?

ANSWER: It's God's Word, the Bible.

Action:

Put a Bible in your volunteer's hand.

Hebrews 4:12

For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

Explain:

The Bible is our weapon against evil. But to use it right, we have to know what it says. That means we need to read and study it every day. Your parents can help you.

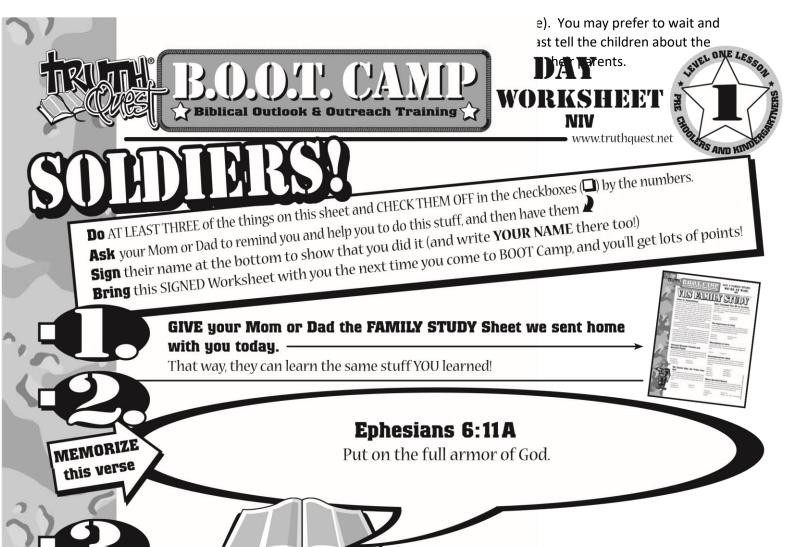
Action:

Now, point to the two paper cups and put the last quarter in cup #1. Explain to them that only one cup has the armor of God. Then blow at both cups. The empty cup (cup #2) should fall to the ground. Tell the kids that without the armor of God, we are like this cup that fell over when it was attacked. The cup with the armor was able to stand firm, just like we can stand firm when we have on the Armor of God.

Conclusion:

God has provided us with wonderful armor to protect ourselves and stand our ground in the war. So always wear the full armor of God and stand firm.

Take Home Sheets:



Preschool Bootcamp

Day 5

Memory Verse Revelation 22:12

"Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done."

Lesson Preparation:

Supplies:

- Three large bowls (preferably disposable)
- Two large bags of pinto beans
- A full-sized Bible
- A clean, empty trash can (office size)

Prepare the beans, bowls, Bible and trash can as directed on the Day Five Lesson Preparation Page.

Introduction:

Attention, soldiers! We've learned a lot this week about the war we're in, about our Commander-In-Chief, about our enemy, and about the armor and weapons God has given us. Now today, we're going to learn about the END of the war!

1 Corinthians 15:55-56

"Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.

Explain:

Because of what Jesus did on the cross, Satan's hold on all of us can be broken. Because Christ rose from the dead, death's hold on us can also be broken. Jesus won that war for everyone who believes in Him!

1 Corinthians 15:57

But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Explain:

Not only did Jesus defeat Satan's evil plans for US, He will defeat Satan ONCE AND FOR ALL when He comes back to earth, and the war will be over for all time. God has promised us that!

Question (1 point): Who's going to win the war?

ANSWER: God / Jesus.

1 Peter 5:8

Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

Question (1 point): Even though Jesus is going to defeat our enemy, does our enemy still want to hurt people?

ANSWER: Yes.

Explain:

The enemy can still kill countless numbers of people, so we must be careful and work hard to tell people how Jesus can save them before Christ returns and deals Satan the decisive blow in the war. When Jesus returns, it will be too late for Satan and for anyone who doesn't know Jesus to be saved.

Luke 12:40

You also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him."

Question (1 point): Besides God, does anyone know exactly when Jesus is coming back?

ANSWER: No.

Luke 12:38

It will be good for those servants whose master finds them ready, even if he comes in the second or third watch of the night.

Explain:

When Jesus returns, He will come as the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, and He will defeat Satan and all those who follow him for ever and ever. But we don't know WHEN Jesus is coming, so we should all work hard to share God's Word with as many people as we can until then! We're going to play a little game to show why this is so important.

The "Be Ready" Game:

1. Draw the children's attention to the three bowls full of pinto beans around the room. Explain that we're pretending these bowls are Satan and his army. We're also pretending that the beans inside the bowls are people who don't know Jesus.

2. Draw the kids' attention to the open Bible on the table at the front of the class. Explain that all those "people" need to hear the Word of God.

3. Tell the children that they should all stand up and go to one of the bowls. Each child should take ONE bean from a bowl and bring it over and set it on the open Bible. The children should all do this as many times as they can before you say, "TIME'S UP!" Once the rules are explained, start the game.

4. After a minute or so, while there are still beans in the bowls, suddenly yell "TIME'S UP!"

5. At this point, have the children STOP what they're doing and sit back down in their seats. Collect the bowls with the remaining beans and bring them to the front as you explain the following:

Explain:

We're pretending that Jesus has just come back. As of right now, in our game, it's too late for anyone who doesn't know Jesus to be saved.

Casualties of War:

1. Now, show the kids the beans they put on the Bible and explain that these are all the people they told about Jesus.

2. Next, take a handful of the beans from the Bible and show them to the kids.www.truthquest.net

3. Explain that these beans in your hand represent people who heard about Jesus, but didn't listen. They were NOT saved.

4. Put those beans back into one of the bowls.

Explain:

God has commanded us to tell people about Jesus, but we CANNOT save them. Only Jesus can save them, and only if the people LISTEN. Our job is to TELL people about Jesus so HE can save them if they want Him to.

The Lamb's Book of Life...

1. Now, draw the kids' attention to the beans on the Bible.

Explain that we're pretending this is the Lamb's Book of Life. All those whose names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life when Jesus returns will be saved.

2. Move the Bible with the beans aside and draw the kids' attention to the bowls full of beans.

Explain that none of the "people" in these bowls have their names in the Lamb's Book of Life. Explain that some of them heard about Jesus and didn't listen, and others just didn't want Jesus in their lives. These people all had plenty of chances to choose Jesus, but they refused to love God. Now, it is too late for them to be saved.

Revelation 20:15

If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

Question (1 point): What happens to those whose names are not written in the Book of Life when Jesus returns?

ANSWER: They will be thrown into the lake of fire.

The Death Toll...

1. Pick up the trash can and tell the children that we're pretending this is the lake of fire.

2. Explain that the lake of fire is hell, and those who end up there will be separated from God forever in great pain.

3. Draw the kids' attention to the bowls full of beans and have them note how many "people" are going to suffer in the lake of fire.

4. Then, dump all the beans from each bowl into the trash can.

Explain:

God doesn't want this many people to end up in hell. This is why we must all work as hard as we can to tell people about Jesus before He comes back. We have to help as many people as possible escape the

lake of fire by telling them about Jesus so that they can choose to have their names written in the book of life.

Satan's Defeat:

1. Now, take the three bowls which contained the beans and explain to the kids that we're pretending these bowls are the devil and his evil helpers. Explain that when Jesus returns, they too, will eventually be thrown into the lake of fire, where they DO NOT want to go.

Revelation 20:10

And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

Action:

Throw the three bowls into the trash can and explain that at that time, Satan will be defeated forever, and he will never hurt anyone again. Then, set the trash can out of sight.

Victory!

1. Explain that now, all the sin that ever existed has been destroyed. Jesus took away the sin of all those who have ever given their lives to Him, and their names are in the book of life. There is no longer an enemy who can bring sin into the world. Sin is no more!

2. Hold up the Bible with the beans in it as you explain that everyone who has given their lives to Jesus will now get the rewards that come from loving God.

Revelation 21:3-4

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

Discussion Questions (no points):

Q. Where would you rather be forever; with God in heaven, where there is no pain or sadness, or in hell, away from God and in great pain?

Q. Where would you rather see your friends, family, and neighbors be?

Say: Then, follow God's orders, soldiers! Here they are!

Mark 16:15

[Jesus] said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation."

Conclusion:

We're all at war with evil, but Jesus has overcome evil. He won freedom for all who believe in Him. When He returns, He will defeat the enemy for all time and reward all those who love God. Satan cannot win, and if you remain faithful to God, you will share in the victory. But until then, go out there and FIGHT! Take as many people away from Satan as you can by telling them about Jesus, and never surrender! You have your orders, soldiers!

Take Home Sheets:

Give each child a Take Home Sheet (see copy of the sheet on the next page). You may prefer to wait and hand out the sheets as the children leave bootcamp for the day. But at least tell the children about the sheets and that you want them to take them home and work on them with their parents.

