

LARGE GROUP



SCRIPTURE: EPHESIANS 6

**WONDER TRUTH:
THE HOLY SPIRIT GIVES US
STRENGTH**

Countdown Clock

**5 minute countdown clock with music to let kids know it's large group time

Leader Introduction

Hello friends, my name is _____, and it's so good to see you today! Let's start by checking out our ping pong jar. What do we need to do to earn a ping pong ball?

Allow kids to answer: Bring a friend, say Word of Wonder, bring your Bible, bring an offering.

Great job! Now, why do we bring an offering?

Allow kids to answer.

That's right! Everything we have is a gift from God. When we give money, it helps us do special things on Serve the City days. We use the money to help people in our neighborhoods and to show them God's love.

Giving is one way we can help others and tell them about Jesus!

Thank you for giving! Let's have a fun time today!

Let's start by doing our Declaration together. Remember these are truths from the Bible we can hold onto always.

Declaration Video

Worship

Bible Time Rhyme

I open my Bible and What do I see? God's Big Story, Waiting for Me!

Let's hear part of God's big story, which comes from the book Ephesians.

God's Big Story

Our God's big story today is a story from the Bible that tells us how we can be protected. Let's find out from the Bible how we can be protected with armor from God. Can you say, "armor"? *Pause to encourage the kids to say, "armor."*

I need your help to tell today's God's big story! Every time I say a part of your body, you can point to it. So if I say, "mouth," show me where you'd point. *Point at mouth.*

Right, you would point at your mouth!

God's big story tells us that just like a soldier wears armor to protect herself during battle, we can wear a kind of armor too.

This special armor is from God, and it helps us be strong and protected. Look at the soldier wearing the armor. *Hold up the picture of the soldier.*

The helmet of salvation goes on our head (point at head and point out the helmet on the Armor Sheet) to help us remember that Jesus died so that we can be forgiven.

We all sin and do wrong things. But Jesus didn't sin.

He died and rose back to life to beat sin. When we trust in Jesus, we can be close with God, and we can be forgiven.

The shoes of peace go on our feet (point at feet point out the shoes on the soldier) to remind us to tell others about Jesus wherever we go, whenever we can.

The breastplate of righteousness goes over our heart (point at heart and point out the breastplate on the soldier) to remember Jesus came to save us and to love God and others. It protects our hearts and helps us trust in Jesus.

The sword of the Spirit (point at a Bible and point out the sword on the soldier) is the Bible, which helps us know God and His truth.

We can hear God's word with our ears (point at ears) and see it with our eyes (point at eyes).

The Holy Spirit is like our armor. When we trust in Jesus, the Holy Spirit comes to live inside of us and protect us and make us strong.

A soldier's armor protects the soldier so the soldier can be strong and brave. When we trust in Jesus and have the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit makes us strong and brave too!

Watch God's Big Story

Connecting the Wonder Truth

Ask the following question to help kids connect the Wonder Truth to God's big story:
Our Wonder Truth today is **THE HOLY SPIRIT GIVES US STRENGTH**. Where did you see our Wonder Truth happen in the story? Allow kids to answer freely.

Before Jesus died on a cross, He told His disciples, "In this world you will have trouble. But be encouraged! I have won the battle over the world" (John 16:33). Paul wrote in Ephesians something kind of like that: **Bad things happen and the enemy of God, the devil, fights ... but Jesus has overcome the devil through His death and resurrection! We have Jesus on our side, and we'll win the battle.**

WORD OF WONDER:

ENCOURAGE THE KIDS TO SAY IT WITH YOU

- **THE HOLY SPIRIT**—Move arms up and in a circle in front of your body, palms facing out.
- **GIVES US**—Point to yourself.
- **POWER.**—Flex your arm muscles.
- **FROM ACTS 1:8**—Hold your hands together as if opening a book.
- _____

PRAYER JOURNAL:

LEAVE THESE QUESTIONS FOR SMALL GROUP LEADERS TO DO IN PRAYER JOURNALS:

- Our Word of Wonder says the Holy Spirit gives us power. What do you think of when you hear the word power?
- Can you think of times when you've been tempted to do wrong and needed the Holy Spirit to give you power to defeat sin?