

NOTE TO THE CUSTOMER:

Contents of this sample lesson, which is actually more than just one sample lesson:

The first few pages are the introduction from the 13 week *Bible Boot Camp 1: Basic Training* Teachers' Manual. I am printing it to show you some of the features which make BBC unique.

The sample lesson I'm using is taken from the VBS curriculum. It is actually the first lesson in both of the books, but the VBS curriculum is used for a wider age range, so I thought it would be good for you to see how it can be taught to all ages. Please be aware that the VBS curriculum includes invitations and visual aids, as well as a revised Basic Training Manual for the five days only. As you scroll down you will see the teachers' instructions and then the student activities for the preschoolers and grades 1-4. The teachers' instructions for grades 5-8 are similar, so I will only show the two crossword puzzles which are given. One is for grades five and six and the other is for grades seven and eight.

INTRODUCTION TO BBC1: BASIC TRAINING (THIRTEEN WEEK CURRICULUM)

Summer is often a time when children are distracted by other activities and may be "too busy" to come to Bible Class on Wednesday nights. This may especially be a problem if their parents do not regularly attend on Wednesday nights. Bible Boot Camp is a particularly exciting program which can hold their interest and entice them to be in regular attendance. Although designed as a summer Wednesday night program, Bible Boot Camp can be, and has been, used successfully at other times.

Most grade schoolers have some interest in the military. Use this favorable attitude to start them thinking about going on "active duty" in the Lord's Army. Bible Boot Camp, with thirteen weeks of Basic Training, teaches the books of the Bible as well as other basic Christian principles and facts.

GETTING STARTED

Convert your classroom to L.A.H.Q. (Lord's Army Headquarters) with special decorations (from members' memorabilia or an Army/Navy Surplus Store) and posters to give it a military flair. A visit to your local Army Recruiter's office can yield information and give you ideas to incorporate into your program.

During May (or the month prior to the beginning of BBC), talk up the program and ask the children to "pre-register." The Uncle Sam flier contains a Registration Form. The flier allows you to communicate the program's goals to their parents and get a commitment for participation. The week before class is to begin, send out Draft Notices to remind parents and children of the upcoming program. The first lesson discusses the battle going on between servants of the Lord and servants of the Devil, the weapons Christians use, and putting on the whole armor of God.

BBC is designed so children learn no more than twelve items during each class session (less for younger ages). When they know this is all they need to memorize each week, nothing seems insurmountable to them. BBC is a good program to use to "pre-promote" students and teach them some basics so they're ready for a new class level.

Your Army Recruiter's office has a brochure called "Guidelines for New Soldiers." It contains pictures of rank insignia which we have adapted, enlarged and used as patterns for making insignia for the children. The stripes and rockers are printed on labels, and may be cut out by the students or the teacher. Stickers are provided for the other insignia. An Insignia Packet contains everything necessary for one student, and may be purchased from Hanna Publications for \$1.00

per child.

Retired military personnel in your congregation may be invited to participate as guests throughout the summer by performing inspection, leading prayer, or loaning military items as decorations for your classroom. Other members may also be invited to participate for special activities. Try to involve members who are not active in any other area of work.

CLASSROOM PROCEDURE

Greet students with a salute as they arrive. Have them go directly to their seats. Begin class promptly by having a boy lead a "military-flavor" hymn such as "Soldiers of Christ, Arise," "A Volunteer for Jesus," "I'm In the Lord's Army," etc. A specific hymn is suggested for each class in the Basic Training Manual, and some lessons include original songs to assist with the memory work. In younger classes, teachers may prefer to review songs from previous lessons rather than using new songs each week.

The Roll Sergeant will call roll. The Chaplain may lead a prayer at the beginning and/or close of class (see Chaplain listed below).

Stick to a strict schedule, allowing students who must miss a session to make up their inspections as time permits during the next class period. Choose students who are learning faster than others to be Assistant Drill Instructors, stand-in Supply Sergeants, and Inspection Officers. Pair up the children for review time and let them assist one another in learning their assignment.

Briefing

Spend a limited time introducing the lesson material for each night. Use the chalkboard or marker board, military style, and your imagination to brief the class in each night's "Special Assignment." Introduce the drill, cadence, or technique to be used for Drill Practice.

Drill Practice

During drill practice, each student can really shine and learn at the same time! Whether you march outside, line drill, or team up to let the students teach each other, emphasize that everyone is learning together, but each one must do his part. Marching cadences are provided for some nights. For other sessions, a special activity is included, some of which encourage teamwork; others individual effort.

Inspection

Reconvene the class "at attention" for inspection. Each student should recite the lesson items in the proper order. For a large class, let some of the students perform inspection for other students. When a child has correctly recited the lesson, let him proceed to the Supply Sergeant's desk to be given the proper insignia for attachment to his chart. Optional "Inspection Questions" may be found in the back of the student manuals for each age group.

Dismissal

Announce which children will serve during the next class session as Supply Sergeant, Roll Sergeant, Chapel Activities Specialist (CAS) and Chaplain. These will be listed on the Duty Roster. Encourage each one to be on time. Whenever possible, give a brief "teaser" regarding next week's lesson.

WAR GAMES

If time permits, BBC may also be expanded to include Sunday afternoon sessions of "War Games" prior to evening services. Sessions may include Bible drills, "Before & After" review

games, or other games and songs to help the students remember what they learned the previous week. Suggested games are included at the end of the teacher's guide. Another option is to use War Games as a special session at the conclusion of the Old Testament section and at the end of the last class. Be creative and use whatever works for your group.

DUTY ROSTER

The Duty Roster is a chart which may be posted in the classroom to let students know which jobs they will be filling each week. Two charts are provided for weeks two through seven and eight through thirteen. The first week, appoint students who attend regularly and are likely to be present for class. Talk to them prior to class to inform them of their responsibilities. After the first class you will know the names of visitors who plan to attend *BBC* so they may also be assigned to jobs on the Duty Roster.

Visitors may begin coming after a couple of weeks, when assignments have already been made. Let a visitor fill in when a class member is absent, and stress that new students will be at the top of the next Duty Roster, which begins with Lesson Eight.

Duty Stickers may be purchased (\$2 for 13 each of four different stickers) or printed from the copy provided later in this book. The Duty Stickers sold by Hanna Publications have been professionally printed. Each sticker is round and easy to peel off and apply to a shirt or dress. Distribute stickers to each assignee at the beginning of class. Roster jobs are:

Chaplain

Prayer may be offered by the Chaplain at the beginning and/or closing of the class. Select a boy to lead the prayer, and explain his responsibility to him prior to class. If time permits, ask the class if they have any prayer requests. Girls are afforded an opportunity to contribute, although they are not asked to lead prayers. It is never too early to begin training our youth about God's pattern regarding male leadership.

Chapel Activities Specialist

One boy will serve as Chapel Activities Specialist (CAS) each week. He is to be prepared to lead the song(s) and/or cadence, so be sure to let him know far enough prior to class so he can practice. Parents may help students learn new songs.

Supply Sergeant

The Supply Sergeant's will be provided with an office area (described later). If possible, provide some type of serviceman's hat or cap. Have him/her sit in a designated desk, ready to distribute all supplies, insignia, etc. throughout the class session. Students will be eager to serve in this manner, so be sure to give each one an opportunity.

Roll Sergeant

A roll call sheet is provided in the back of this manual, and may be duplicated. The roll sergeant will call roll at the beginning of each class. Rather than merely having students respond "present," use the roll call as a method of reviewing previous lessons. For example, the second week you might suggest naming one of the parts of armor. Or one person could name the part of armor, and the next one would be required to tell what it represents. If the first person said "shield," the second would respond "faith." After learning some of the books of the Old Testament, students could be required to name them in order as their names are called. As a variation, say the first student has to name the book after Joshua (or any other book) and the next student names the following book.

PRIOR TO THE FIRST CLASS

Visit the nearest Army Recruiting Station, if possible. Obtain fliers to read and place on your bulletin board. Ask for posters to decorate the room, and coffee cups to hold pencils, scissors, paper clips, etc. Obtain bumper stickers which say: "ARMY - Be All You Can Be." Change the top of the sticker to say "GOD'S ARMY....." (Paint pens or stick-on letters can be purchased at Wal-Mart, other discount stores, or hobby stores.) These may be given to all who invite a friend, or distributed to everyone.

Use posters provided in this book to spice up your room even more. For example, copy, color and paste to a poster laid horizontally: Army tank, bottom left corner; Army helicopter, top right corner; and Uncle Sam Welcome in the middle (add last, as it will over-lap the other two pictures). Camouflage material, purchased at a sewing center or discount store may be used to decorate the walls or as a backdrop for posters and/or fliers.

Prepare the Supply Sergeant's office. Cut out the bottom of a large box. Cut the box apart on one corner only. Open it part way, so it will stand up by itself. (Alternative: Be innovative! For my class I used a small storage dresser for one wall, and a small bookcase for the other, attaching the poster to the outside of the bookcase. - BH) Use bright markers to write OFFICE OF THE SUPPLY SERGEANT. Place a desk and chair behind the box. Have Bibles ready for the first class. Sharpen pencils. If you are unable to obtain an army hat from someone in the congregation to be worn by the Supply Sergeant, you may wish to purchase a camouflage hunting hat at a discount store or a hunting store.

Make copies of the Basic Training Manual to be given to students. Print two copies for each student so one copy may be taken home, and one copy may be left in the classroom. Students are to review what they have mastered (using the copy they leave at home) and begin learning the Memory Work for the following week. Optional: Younger students may be relieved to know they are allowed to say the Memory Work in unison, but urge them to practice with a parent or older brother or sister.

The Roster will be created by using one Insignia Chart for each student. Cut a poster board in half lengthwise. Label it "ROSTER," and place it above the charts which have been connected to form the complete Roster. Insignia Chart Packets may be purchased from Hanna Publications for one dollar per student, which includes the chart, stripes, rockers, and stickers. Each student will be provided with three white stripes (top of patch) and three rockers (the curved ones on the bottom of the patch). These must be cut prior to affixing to the charts. Each student will also receive seven round stickers which are ready to peel and stick on the circles on the charts. If you prefer to copy the page with the insignia in the back of this book, all insignia will be cut and pasted or copied on labels so they may be cut out and the backing peeled off. Add to the attractiveness of the charts by using a silver pen or paint pen to color the insignia for weeks nine, eleven, and thirteen. Those who reproduce their own insignia may use a gold pen or paint pen to fill in the insignia for weeks ten and twelve.

Assign special jobs, and call students to notify them of the role they will be playing during the first class. You should select students who attend regularly to participate the first time. The Chaplain will be a boy who already knows how to lead prayer. The CAS might be the song leader's son, or another boy whose father will help him practice leading the assigned song(s) for the first class. Give him the Basic Training Manual and ask him to practice "You're in God's Army Now." Girls or boys may be selected to fill the roles of Supply Sergeant and Roll Sergeant. Copy the Roll Call sheet and fill in the names of all students who attend regularly and those who have preregistered. Attach it to a clip board.

Mail out the Draft Notices. Children love getting mail. Build their enthusiasm for *BBC* by sending the Draft Notices so they will arrive a couple of days before the first class.

1. CHRISTIAN ARMOR

OBJECTIVES

Emphasize to preschoolers that the Bible is our weapon to fight Satan.
Stress the importance of obeying God.
Fours and Fives should also memorize the Shield of Faith and Helmet of Salvation.

PREPARATION

If you want to use the Christian Armor page as a puzzle, you will need to have access to a laminator or buy a roll of clear Contact paper. You can copy the page on cover stock to make it more durable.

Copy all lesson material well in advance. Use various colors of paper to add to the attractiveness.

Prepare a flip chart by using a color book, pictures you have saved in the past, visual aids from other lessons, etc. Color books about the Bible should be readily available from any religious book store. See the "Visual Aids" section of the introduction for further details.

Preschoolers will need a little "play" time, especially if your class instruction time is longer than regular Bible class periods. Play may be useful and related to your goals. For example, borrow (if you don't have any) some schools and/or houses with little people. Use cars and buses in which the people fit to let the children drive them to VBS. Turn a school or house into a church building. Use construction paper or cover stock to make two signs on the roof. One side should say "Vacation Bible School," and the other side "The church of Christ meets here." As the children drive the people to VBS, have them sing (to the tune of "Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush"):

Here we go to VBS
To VBS, to VBS,
Here we go to VBS -
Vacation Bible School.

Use this activity to open every class. The children will love it, and it will increase their excitement about going to VBS. It is also a good way to help shy children learn how to participate, and new students to feel relaxed in your classroom.

Duty Stickers may be used to assign daily jobs. Make a chart showing what each sticker represents. Four jobs could be: Pass out crayons, Pass out papers, Pick up crayons, Collect the papers when completed. Tell the children they will be taking turns. Four children will be assigned each day. If you prefer, give out the stickers when you want a child to do a job. Some of the jobs will be needed more than once, so if you have plenty of stickers, you could let each child have a turn during every class period. Stickers may be purchased from Hanna Publications (\$2 for 13 of each sticker) or you may print your own on labels by using the pattern on page 70.

You will need a paper plate and foil to make the Shield of Faith. A strip of cover stock should be stapled to the back of the paper plate so there is room for the child to insert his hand. Cover the back of the staple with tape. Use the foil to cover the whole shield. Use markers or fabric paint to write "Shield of Faith" on the front.

Cut swords out of cardboard boxes. Cover the sword with foil. Write "Word of God" on the sword.

Print and cut out the Keys of Bible Knowledge. You could use one extra key on which you will write the child's name. Or you may decide to have some other shape for their names. Use the bright colored push pins on a bulletin board to hang each child's key ring.

OPENING

On the first day you will spend a little more time getting to know new members of your preschool class. If you have a difficult time remembering names (like I do!), use the name tags on page 68. Sing the "Here we go to VBS" song suggested on page one. If you don't have access to the toys I mentioned, you might purchase a package of little cars (such as party favors), and draw a church building or make one out of a shoe box. Have the children drive the little cars to VBS while you sing. You could even use pictures of cars from ads you receive in the mail. Glue them to cardboard, and let the children drive the cardboard cars to VBS. Be creative! (If you are a new teacher, remember that you will gradually learn new methods which work for you, and use them in future settings.)

Be sure to have enough helpers so each one will assist two or three preschoolers, especially when you have very little ones. Tell the helpers what you expect them to do before class begins. Provide them with an outline of what you will be doing during the class. (**Always** write your outline for VBS! You will probably have visitors who may not be accustomed to attending to Bible class, and it is vital that you keep things moving so they won't become restless and cause problems.)

Attendance Charts are provided showing two men fishing. Let children place a fish sticker in the water, or use the fish provided on page 67 in the EXTRAS section.

If you are copying your own fish, use five different colors of paper, if possible. Sort the fish prior to class and put them in baggies. Each child should have five different fish and the fish should be five different colors. Write a name on each baggie the first time you use them so you will be sure to have a variety for them each day.

Use stick glue for all gluing projects if you can. It is much easier for the children to use, and a lot less messy than the liquid type. Show the children how to use the glue without unwinding it so far that it will break off.

LESSON

Begin by showing the soldier with the armor. Preschool students will be learning only three parts of the armor. Have your page colored. Tell the children they will be using their copies to make a puzzle. They will color the page and write their names at the top. Then you and/or your helpers will laminate them (or cover with clear Contact paper), cut them into puzzle pieces, and put each puzzle in a baggie with the child's name written on the outside. Be sure to mention that they won't be able to take the puzzles home until the next day, as you will have to finish them.

Talk about the parts of armor. Put it in simple language. Use your own words, but here is a sample:

This is the helmet of salvation (point to it). A soldier wears a helmet to protect his head. It might save his life some day! God wants to save us. He wants us to go to heaven to live with him forever. We have to study the Bible to learn how to go to heaven. Those who are saved will live with God and Jesus in heaven. There are no owies in heaven. No one ever cries. Everyone is happy. It is good to come to Bible class so we can learn more about what God wants us to do.

This is the shield of faith. Later I will help you make your own shields. We get faith by studying the Bible. The more we learn, the more our faith grows. When we believe what the Bible says, we have faith.

The sword is the Word of God. What is the Word of God? (If no one answers, hold up a Bible.) The Bible is the Word of God. We use the Bible to help us obey God, not the devil. The devil wants us to obey him. He wants us to do bad things. God wants us to do good things. The more we learn about the Bible, the more we can do what God wants. The more we learn about the Bible, the more we can fight against what the devil wants us to do.

The child assigned to pass out papers should do so now. Let the children color their papers, and write their names at the top. The child who is picking up papers will give them to you or a helper.

Refreshments may be served now. If you have a little time remaining before your children will receive their treats, sing a couple of songs. "I'm in the Lord's Army" is a favorite with most little children, and very appropriate to go along with the VBS theme. Before eating, have the children pray with you. You may say the prayer or ask the children to repeat what you say. I have found that preschoolers enjoy saying the prayer together in unison. It helps them learn how to pray. Lead simple sentences. Tell them to repeat what you say, then say only short phrases before pausing: "Dear God....Thank you for the food.... Thank you for VBS....Help more children come....Help me learn about the Bible....In Jesus' Name....Amen."

Use the flip chart to capture the children's attention after break. Review the parts of the spiritual armor you expect them to learn today.

"Give Me the Bible" is the title of an activity which will help children remember the importance of the Bible. Have them circle the Bible and cross off the newspaper. They may color the page.

Have a helper distribute the Basic Training Manuals. Tell the children they will be using them every day. Help them write their names on the cover. They should color only today's pictures.

Let children apply stickers to the swords and shields. Or you may use little pictures you have cut out. Bibles would be appropriate for both the sword and shield. You could cut various colors of Bibles. Preschoolers love to paste, and even the youngest can usually handle stick glue. Tell children the swords will be taken away if they try to fight with them. Remind them that the Bible is what we use to fight against the bad things the devil wants us to do. God does not want us to stab people with our play swords!

Two activities may be accomplished at one time, helping to prevent fidgeting. Tell the children you are going to use a fishing game to review the lesson. Prepare the game in advance, as is suggested in the "General Instructions." Number each fish. Then have your questions numbered so you will know which question to ask, depending on the number on the fish. While the children take turns fishing, let the others "drive" little people home in the buses and cars. Tell them they will get to drive them back to VBS when they return tomorrow. Ask simple questions related to what you have taught today. A few samples are:

1. What is the Word of God?
2. What book tells us how to worship God?
3. What is our shield?
4. What is our sword?

Write other questions related to the flip chart you created. If you don't have enough fish to go around, put them all back after they are caught, and start over.

Distribute the Key of Bible Knowledge for today. Let the children paste on the facts they have learned, depending on their age and ability (you will have selected the appropriate one prior to class).

Helpers should make sure all children have their things to take home when it is about time for class to end. Let the children put their items on the table and stand to sing another song or two before it is time to go.

OPTIONAL ACTIVITY

Children love books with “look and see” flaps. They lift the flap to see the surprise underneath. This activity will involve making just one page with a “look and see” flap. Use two different colors of cover stock (this can be purchased at Wal-Mart or other discount stores in packages containing 4 or 5 colors, with 100 sheets total). Leave the bottom sheet blank, except for pasting the Bible where it will show when the flap is lifted.

On the other sheet, copy the page with the hand holding the large sword. At the top it says, “I’m in the Lord’s Army....” Below the sword it says, “Lift the sword to see my only weapon...”

You can either write the word “Bible” on the cover of the Bible you will have the children paste, or you can copy the sheet which will make two Bibles. Use a third color for the Bible cover, if possible. It may be regular weight paper, or you can even use construction paper. The Bible verse, Hebrews 4:12, will be pasted inside the Bible. Have all the Bibles folded and the verse pasted inside. Then the child will paste the back side of the Bible onto the cover stock (with no other words).

For very young preschoolers, cut the page with the sword so the child may lift the sword to look underneath and find the Bible. You can paste it prior to class, or have the children do it in class.

For older preschoolers, let them cut the page with the sword themselves. Dotted lines indicate where to cut. Have one sample made prior to class to show the children so they will know how the finished product will look. Let them paste it showing them where to put the paste, and stressing not to paste the back of the flap they are to lift when it is done.

GIVE ME THE BIBLE

What should we read to learn how to worship God?



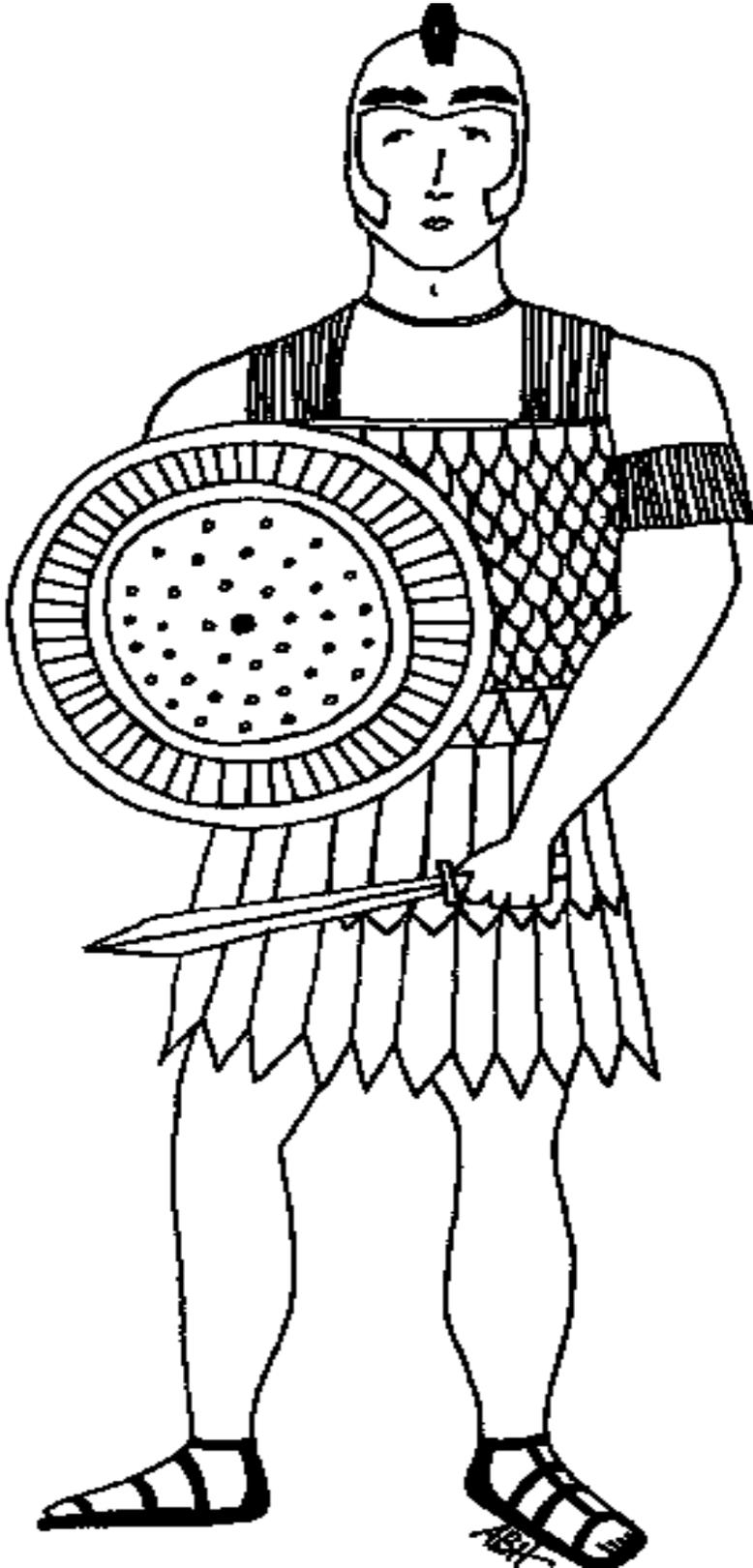
King David wrote, "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path" (Psalm 119:105).



©1995, Hanna Publications. May be reproduced for classroom use only.

CHRISTIAN ARMOR

Ephesians 6:11-17



Helmet of
salvation

Shield of faith

Sword is the Word
of God

© 1997, Hanna Publications.
Art by Amy Hefty.

I'm in the Lord's Army....



Lift the sword to see my only
weapon....

The word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword.

Hebrews 4:12

The word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword.

Hebrews 4:12

1. SPIRITUAL ARMOR

OBJECTIVES:

Recognize the spiritual battle that exists between Christians and Satan;
Understand the Word of God is our only weapon;
Understand the importance of being able to use the Bible.

OPENING:

Teachers, your students should be excited about coming to this first class of Bible Boot Camp (BBC) for Vacation Bible School. Today's lesson will serve as an introduction to the Word of God and its importance in the ongoing battle between good and evil.

Welcome students with a salute and have them proceed directly to their seats. Keep them "at attention" as long as possible to avoid distractions and set the mood and the pace for BBC. This class will be as if they just stepped off the bus into Army Boot Camp.

Provide name tags, as you will be likely to have many visitors to VBS. The name tags found in the back of this book are to be printed on address labels (size 2x4).

Distribute stickers for each of the four duties: Roll Sergeant, Supply Sergeant, Chaplain, and Chapel Activities Specialist (CAS). Let the Roll Sergeant get the Roll Call sheet to be passed around. Students should write their first and last names. (If you want to call roll this time, tell the students to give the name of the person who invited them to VBS when their name is called.) Ask the Chaplain to lead a prayer. The CAS may lead "Soldiers of Christ, Arise," and/or lead "You're In God's Army Now!" after the briefing.

VARIATION RE: DUTY STICKERS

During VBS we often have many visitors. The original BBC was written for regular classroom use (13 weeks) when you would not be having many visitors. The boys were to practice leading prayers and songs. However, during VBS it may be advisable to provide different jobs for the stickers. Use the blank duty roster. Make up your own jobs, such as: Bibles and BTM (distribute and pick up); Hand out Papers; Pick up Papers; Clean Room (after class). Or you may wish to use the Roll Sergeant instead of Clean Room. At the bottom of the chart, place one sticker to indicate that the person who wears that particular sticker is the one who will do the designated job (which you have written at the top).

Write the name of each student in one space. Give the duty stickers to the four who will be helping during this class. Leave the rest of the spaces blank in case others come later in the week, so all may have at least one turn to be a helper. If you wish to have a boy lead a song and/or a prayer, select one of the students who regularly attends class and have him prepare for this job in advance.

ATTENDANCE CHARTS:

With the thirteen week lesson book, students were to earn rank. Insignia charts were provided. However, this is not practical for VBS with only five nights. Hence, an attendance chart is found in the back of this manual. Copy it on cover stock, using several color (or use ivory and have students color it). It says, "Be All You Can Be....In God's Army! It's Time for (child's name) to: Study, Love, Pray, Worship, Serve." For Lesson One, give the students a Bible sticker or use the cut-out Bible and have them paste it above the word "Study."

BRIEFING:

Explain what happens when young soldiers go off to Army Boot Camp. Soldier must leave their homes and give themselves completely to the task of becoming *good* soldiers. A Drill Sergeant is assigned to each troop that arrives and becomes their teacher and coach. As the Bible teacher, you are now the Drill Sergeant. Soldiers go through tough physical training to be able to do their jobs. This is called “Basic Training.” Ask the students to describe a soldier’s job.

After you hear their ideas, explain that a soldier learns to do whatever he is *ordered* to do to be able to defend his country. One of the things he must learn in Boot Camp is how to handle his weapons; the weapons he will use in his job. Have the students tell you what weapons they think a soldier needs to be able to use.

In Basic Training, the Drill Sergeants are hard on the recruits. They have to make *sure* they are well prepared. Their lives may depend on how well trained they are. One of the things Drill Sergeants are always telling the recruits is “**Know Your Weapon!**” This becomes their slogan because their lives depend on how well they can use that weapon. They go through drill after drill, taking their weapons apart and putting them back together.

In a like manner, Christians must be ready to fight battles with Satan. Impress upon students the goal to: “**Know Your Weapon!**” Discuss the following questions briefly. What kind of battles does a Christian fight in? What weapons would he use?

Instruct the Supply Sergeant to put on his/her hat and go to the supply area to issue a weapon to each student - the **ONLY** weapon that will work against Satan - the double-edged sword, the Word of God, the Bible. Tell them their souls depend on the proper use of this weapon. Show students the Keys of Knowledge, and emphasize the importance of learning from God’s Word.

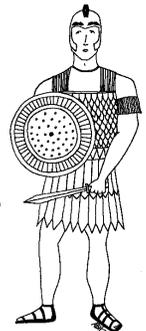
ORIENTATION:

WEAPONS 101: Soldiers defend their country or kingdom. Christians defend Christ’s kingdom. Help students find **John 18:36** in their Bibles. Have a student read the passage. Christ’s kingdom began on the day of Pentecost when people were baptized to become a part of the kingdom, or church. **Luke 17:20,21** explains that the kingdom is within each Christian.

Carnal weapons are things such as *real*/swords, guns, tanks, bombs, etc. These verses tell us we are definitely *not* to use these kinds of weapons in defending or protecting the Lord’s kingdom.

Hebrews 4:12 explains the effectiveness of our weapon, God’s Word. Just how sharp would a sword be that’s honed or sharpened on both edges? You would certainly have to be careful in picking it up and using it. The Word of God is even sharper, for it cuts right into the heart. People learn whether or not they are pleasing God by studying His Word.

Distribute the pictures of the soldier from the student lesson book. Tell the class to fill in the correct words for each part of the armor as you read **Ephesians 6:11-17**. For example, when you read “having your loins girt about with truth,” explain where the loins are, and ask what word students are to write on the part of the armor. Then ask, “How do we learn God’s truth?” If time permits, students may color the picture. As students color, explain that the things that are mentioned first are things we put on to protect ourselves. The only weapon that is mentioned is the sword of the spirit, the Word of God.



Students should now have a better understanding of why its important to know how to handle this very special weapon. Tell them the rest of the week they will be “taking apart” their weapon

to examine the various parts. Ask the class, "What's our theme?" Have them repeat in unison: **"Know Your Weapon!"**

The Supply Sergeant may quickly distribute the *Basic Training Manuals*. The CAS will lead "You're in God's Army Now," found on page two. Sing the song two or three times, as it will help them memorize the parts of armor prior to inspection. They may sing it for the person conducting the inspection.

BREAK:

During VBS, there is usually a break between sections of class time. Pray before break. If possible, have your class return to the room to eat, so you can quickly get back to the lesson. Keeping classes separate may also cut down on rowdy behavior.

After break ask your helper to hand out the crossword puzzles. Another person will distribute Bibles. Students are to turn to Ephesians 6 to complete the puzzle. Let each child read one verse. Ask them what word needs to go in the puzzle. Explain where each word is to be written in the puzzle. If you have first graders in your room, spell the words. Older students could complete the crossword puzzle individually.

If time permits, let the class work on the code page. Those who finish first may begin working on the lion sheet, finding the verse and filling in the missing words. Or if you have mainly younger students, you may choose to use the lion which has the text completed. If you don't have time to complete all the work, the lion page should be omitted and just used as an extra take-home activity. Give out the Keys of Bible Knowledge. Provide a key ring which may be easily opened by students.

INSPECTION:

Ask one of the men in the congregation to come down at the close of each class to "inspect" students. According to *You and the Army*, soldiers are inspected at boot camp by the Company Commander the third week, the Battalion Commander the fourth week, and the Brigade Commander the sixth week. The man who inspects the troops could be called by one of these names. Have the class stand at attention and salute the Commander when he enters. Give him a list of questions prior to class. The class should be drilled as a group. The Commander may ask students to raise their hands, or he may just let them speak out when they know the correct answer.

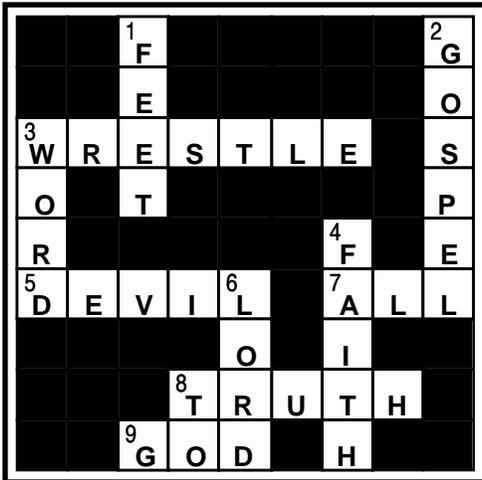
Be sure to have all the papers handed out and ready to go before the final bell rings for class to be over. Use paper clips or staples to fasten each child's papers so they won't get lost. Tell students you enjoyed having them in class, and urge them to come back for the next class. Mention something you will be doing to perk their interest. Don't forget to pray for your students, and for yourself as you prepare for the next class.

SAMPLE CLASS OUTLINE:

1. Name tags
2. Duty stickers & chart
3. Attendance charts
4. BTM & Bibles - Sing "You're in God's Army Now"
5. Spiritual Armor (make your own outline of what you want to say)

6. Sing "You're in God's Army Now" again
7. Prayer and **BREAK**
8. Crossword Puzzle
9. Review parts of armor, etc.
10. Give out Keys of Bible Knowledge
11. Do code and/or lion if time permits
12. **INSPECTION**
13. Have papers ready to go (send home all papers not completed, too)

ANSWERS:



NOTE TO THE CUSTOMER ABOUT THIS SAMPLE LESSON: Students for this age group fill out the parts of spiritual armor, with the same graphic that was used for the preschoolers. One of the activities can not be shown, as the page is lengthwise, and would not fit on the screen properly. There is also a code which can not be shown because I no longer have the picture font I used to create it. Therefore the only activity I am showing for this age group is the crossword puzzle. Since the instructions for grades 5-8 are similar to those for grades 1-4, with more detail added, I will only show the more complex crossword puzzles. There is also a code for and another activity for this age group.

1. YOU'VE BEEN DRAFTED: God's Armor

As you fill in the missing words, you will see a letter and number after each answer. A means Across. D means Down. So when you see (1D), it means to find the number one on the puzzle which has a word going down. You will find all answers in Ephesians 6.

10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the _____ (6D), and in the power of his might.

11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the _____ (5A).

12 For we _____ (3A) not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

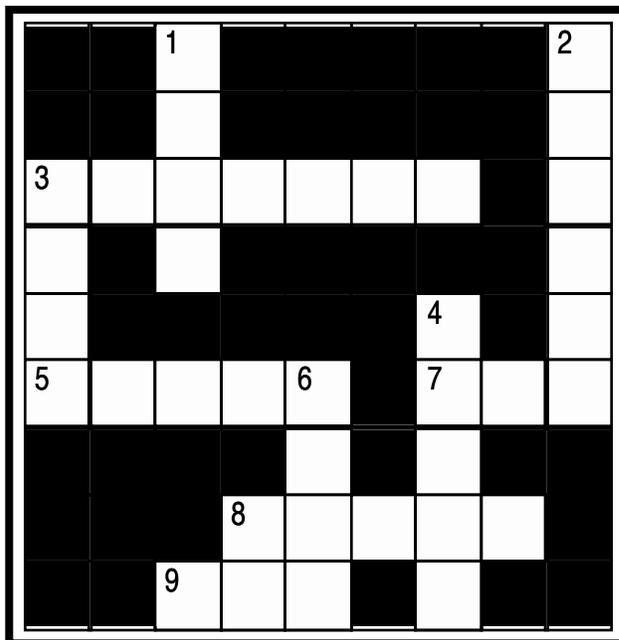
13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God....

14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with _____ (8A), and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

15 And your _____ (1D) shod with the preparation of the _____ (2D) of peace;

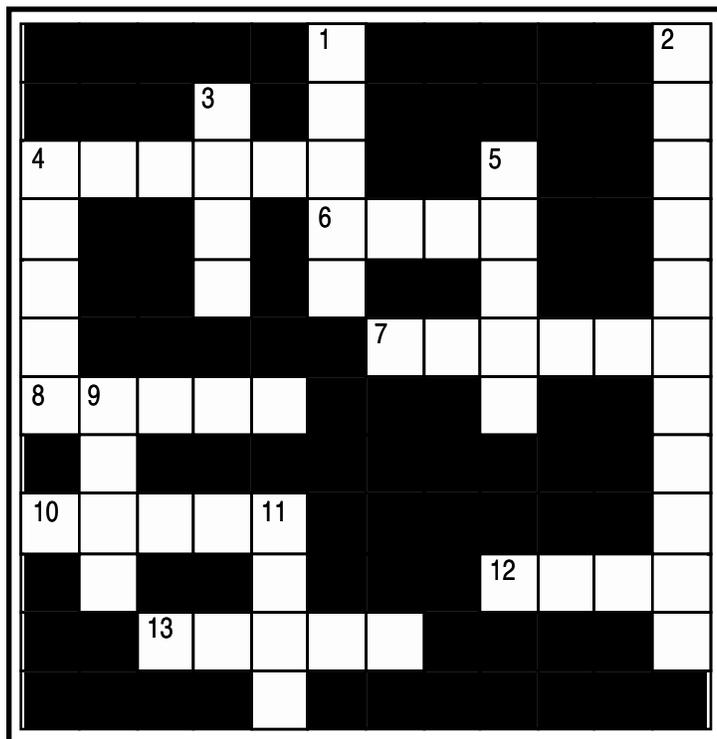
16 Above all, taking the shield of _____ (4D), wherewith ye shall be able to quench _____ (7A) the fiery darts of the wicked.

17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the _____ (3D) of _____ (9A).



1. YOU'VE BEEN DRAFTED: God's Armor

As you fill in the missing words, you will see a letter and number after each answer. A means Across. D means Down. So when you see (1D), it means to find the number one on the puzzle which has a word going down. You will find all answers in Ephesians 6.



10 Finally, my brethren, be _____ (4A) in the _____ (3D), and in the power of his _____ (1D).

11 Put on the _____ (5D) armour of God, that ye may be able to _____ (4D) against the wiles of the _____ (8A).

12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in _____ (6A) places.

13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the _____ (9D) day, and having done all, to stand.

14 Stand therefore, having _____ (11D) loins girt about with _____ (13A), and having on the _____ (2D) of righteousness;

15 And your _____ (12A) shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

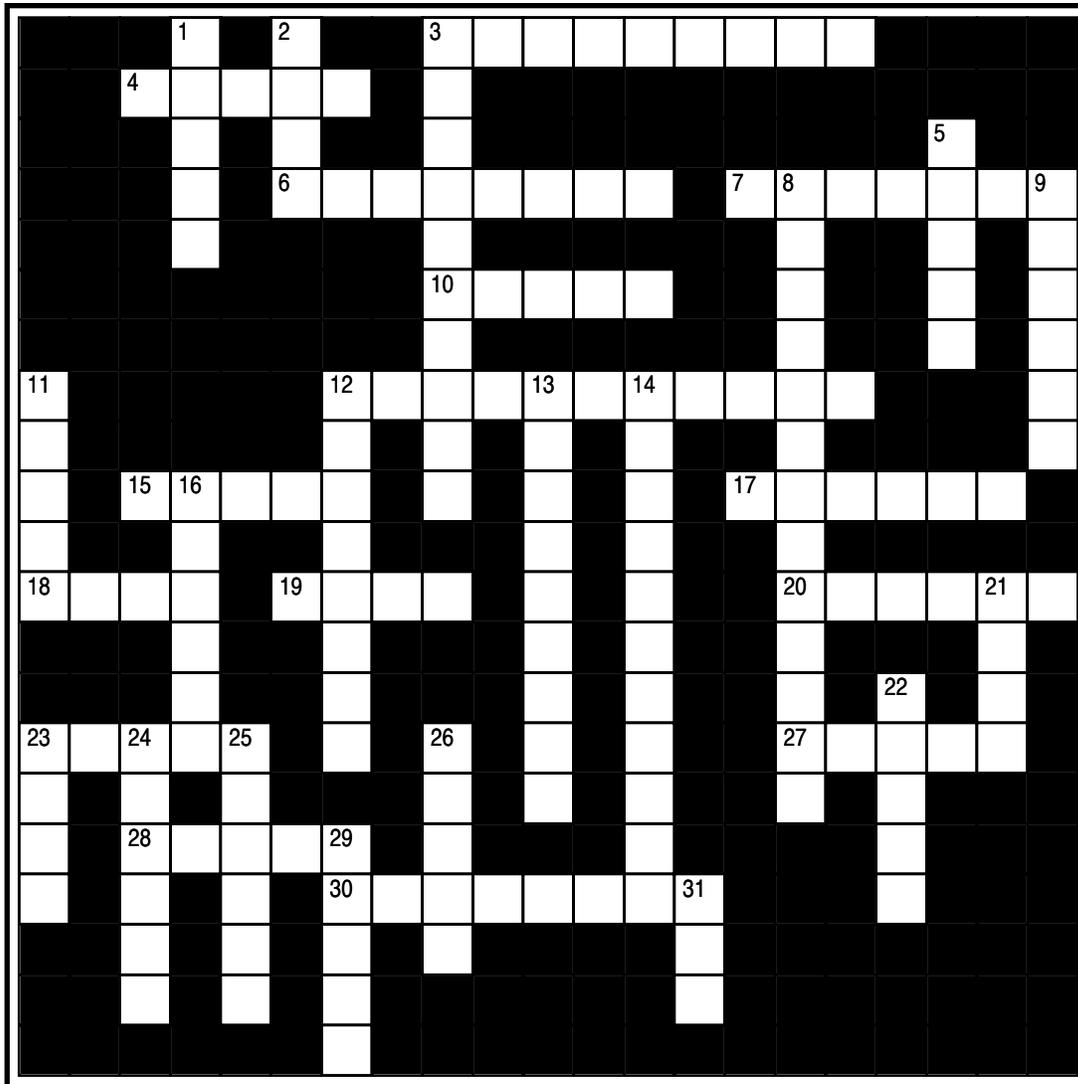
16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the _____ (10A) darts of the wicked.

17 And take the _____ (7A) of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.



1. CHRISTIAN ARMOR PUZZLE

All answers to the crossword puzzle are found in Ephesians 6:10-18. It is not necessary to fill in the words on the lines, just write them in the puzzle. You will know where to insert the words by looking at the letter and number in parenthesis after the missing word. For example, 16D means 16 down, and 19A means 19 across.



- 10 Finally, my _____ (12D), be strong in the _____ (21D), and in the power of his _____ (5D).
- 11 Put on the _____ (15A) armour of _____ (31D), that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the _____ (10A).

- 12 For we wrestle not against _____ (1D) and _____ (4A), but against principalities, against _____ (17A), against the _____ (24D) of the _____ (6A) of this world, against spiritual _____ (3D) in high places.
- 13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to _____ (3A) in the _____ (18A) day, and having _____ (23D) all, to _____ (27A).
- 14 Stand therefore, having your _____ (28A) girt about with _____ (26D), and having on the _____ (12A) of _____ (8D).
- 15 And your feet _____ (19A) with the _____ (14D) of the _____ (9D) of _____ (11D);
- 16 Above all, taking the _____ (20A) of _____ (22D), wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery _____ (23A) of the wicked.
- 17 And take the _____ (16D) of _____ (13D), and the _____ (29D) of the Spirit, which is the _____ (2D) of God.
- 18 _____ (7A) always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and _____ (30A) thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all _____ (25D).

The Christian's weapon:



Hebrews 2:12

©1998, Hanna Publications

