Preschool–Grade 5

The Armor of God Craft

Paper plate shield of faith · Ephesians 6:10–18 · print page 2 for each child (and page 3 for the harder level)

What it looks like finished



Easy and medium



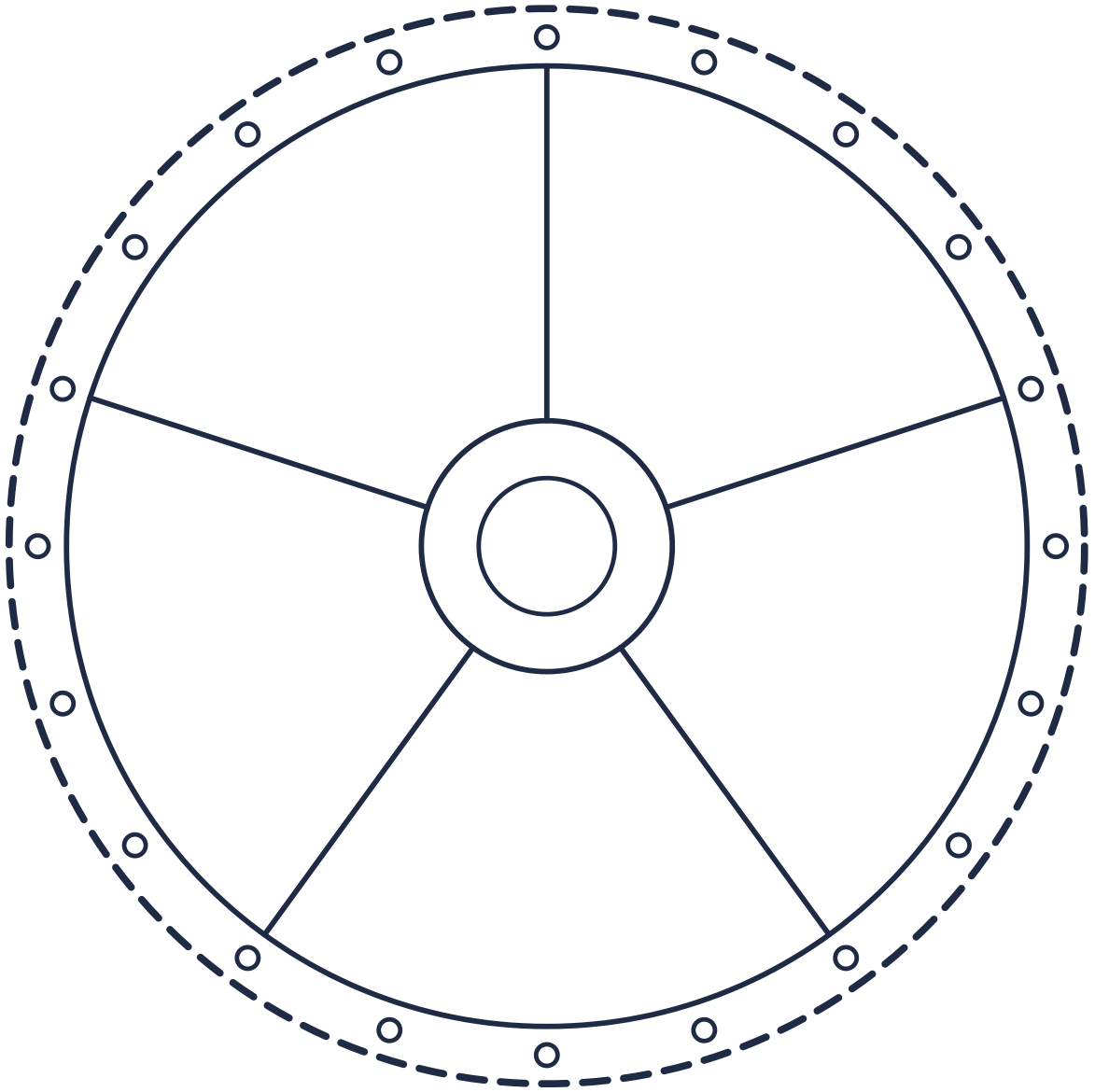
Harder

Both are a paper plate shield of faith with a handle and the verse strip on the back. Medium (left): kids color the five sections of the shield. Harder (right): kids also color and cut out the five armor badges on page 3 and glue one in each section.

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Name: _____

✂ Cut on the dashed lines





"Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked."

Ephesians 6:16 (KJV)

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Name: _____

✂ Cut on the dashed lines

Armor badges (harder level)

Color each piece, then cut out the five circles on the dashed lines.
Glue one badge in each section of your shield.



belt of truth (Ephesians 6:14)



breastplate of righteousness (6:14)



feet shod with the gospel of peace (6:15)



helmet of salvation (6:17)



sword of the Spirit, the word of God (6:17)

Paul names each piece in Ephesians 6:14–17. The shield itself is the shield of faith (6:16).

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For the teacher

See it finished: a photo of the finished craft is at vbshq.com/crafts/armor-of-god-craft
Time: 15 to 30 minutes, depending on the level · **Ages:** 3 to 11, in three levels · **Cost:** under 50 cents a child for the easy and medium levels
You need: one 9-inch white paper plate per child, page 2 printed once per child (cardstock is sturdiest), crayons or markers, scissors, a glue stick and clear tape. For the harder level, also page 3 printed once per child.
Before class: for preschoolers, cut out the shields, handles and verse strips ahead of time.

Three ways to make it

- **Easy (preschool, ages 3–5), about 15 minutes, no scissors:** before class, cut out each child's shield, handle and verse strip. Kids color the five sections and the middle circle, then glue the shield onto the bottom of the plate. You fold and tape on the handle and glue the verse strip on the back. Read the verse together.
- **Medium (grades K–2), about 20 minutes:** follow the steps below. Kids color the shield, cut out the shield, handle and verse strip, glue the shield on the plate and add the handle and verse on the back. This is the craft in the left photo.
- **Harder (grades 3–5), about 30 minutes:** kids make the medium shield, but leave the five sections white. Then they color the five armor badges on page 3 (the belt, the breastplate, the shoe, the helmet and the sword), cut them out and glue one badge in the middle of each section, saying the name of each piece and its verse as they glue it (Ephesians 6:14–17). They color the middle circle and the dots yellow, add the handle and verse strip, and say Ephesians 6:11 from memory. This is the craft in the right photo.

Steps (medium level)

1. **Color:** color the five sections of the shield red, blue, green, orange and purple, one color each. Color the middle circle and the little dots around the edge yellow.
2. **Cut:** cut out the shield, the handle strip and the verse strip on the dashed lines.
3. **Glue the shield:** turn the paper plate upside down and glue the shield in the middle of the bottom.
4. **Handle:** turn the plate over. Fold both ends of the handle on the dotted fold lines. Tape the two folded ends to the inside of the plate, about 3 inches apart, so the middle of the strip bends up into a loop for your hand.
5. **Verse:** glue the verse strip inside the plate, under the handle, and read it together.
6. **Hold it up:** hold your shield of faith by the handle and say, "Above all, taking the shield of faith" (Ephesians 6:16).

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Questions to ask while kids work

- Paul said, "Above all, taking the shield of faith" (Ephesians 6:16). Faith means trusting God. When is it hard for you to trust God?
- The shield of faith can quench, or put out, "all the fiery darts of the wicked" (Ephesians 6:16). Fiery darts are burning arrows. What lies or temptations can trusting God stop?
- Who makes us strong? Paul said, "be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might" (Ephesians 6:10).
- **Harder level:** name each badge as you glue it. The belt of truth and the breastplate of righteousness (6:14), the gospel of peace on your feet (6:15), the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God (6:17).

Tips

- **Old Bible words explained:** quench = put out a fire, fiery darts = burning arrows, wicked = people or powers that do evil, ye = you.
- **Preschool:** pre-cut everything and use glue sticks, not liquid glue. Hold up a finished shield so they can see the goal.
- **Sturdy handles:** cardstock handles last longest. Press the tape down firmly on both ends.
- **Play with it:** after the craft, let kids hold up their shields while you gently toss crumpled paper balls. Each time a shield blocks one, they say, "I trust God!"
- **Teach the passage first:** this craft goes with the free armor of God Sunday school lesson and word search at vbshq.com/bible-stories/armor-of-god.

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