

Knights of North Castle At-Home Packet



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Materials

Craft

-  brown paper grocery bag or brown craft paper
-  school glue
-  posterboard
-  hole punch
-  yarn
-  glue sticks
-  markers
-  glitter glue
-  scissors
-  washi tape
-  **Stay-Put Stickers** (optional)
-  **Stencils Set** (optional)
-  **Stampers Set** (optional)
-  dot markers (preschool only)
-  plastic tablecloth
-  **Mosaic Castle Scene**
-  marker or pen to write names

Science

-  wooden craft sticks
-  cardboard boxes
-  plastic spoons
-  plastic bottles
-  plastic bottle caps
-  tape
-  glue
-  rubber bands
-  clothespins
-  bathroom-sized paper cups
-  marshmallows or small paper wads
-  pencils

Snack

-  graham crackers
-  stick pretzels
-  marshmallows and marshmallow fluff
-  sun nut butter (made from sunflower seeds)
-  clear or blue crystal sugar or sanding sugar
-  paper plates
-  jumbo craft sticks or other child-safe spreaders
-  knife (adult use only)

Bible Background

1 Samuel 17:1-50a

Breastplate of Justice

Everyone loves an underdog, and “David and Goliath” is the ultimate underdog story. On one side is Goliath, a man who was more than nine feet tall. A giant! On the other side stands David, just a shepherd boy holding a sling and some stones. But why were the two fighting in the first place?

Goliath’s people, the Philistines, were the enemies of David’s people, the Israelites. It was common for armies to choose representatives to fight one another. A win for an army’s champion was counted as a win for the whole nation. Israel’s problem was that no one wanted to fight Goliath! Not even King Saul was brave enough to face him.

In the midst of this standoff, David presented himself as a representative for Israel. David was an unlikely hero. The youngest son of Jesse, David was no fighter (unless you count the wild animals he would fight to save his father’s flocks). Saul tried to persuade David not to face Goliath, but he eventually allowed it and gave him his personal armor to wear. David was just a boy, so the armor was too cumbersome. Instead, David went into battle with just a sling and five smooth stones.

In the fight between David and Goliath, the old adage “the bigger they are, the harder they fall” proved true. Goliath tried to intimidate David, but he was unsuccessful. Goliath came at David with insults, the tactics of a bully. David came with the power of God: “The LORD owns this war, and he will hand all of you over to us” (1 Samuel 17:47).

The battle was swift. David swung his sling, launching one smooth stone into the air. The stone landed on Goliath’s forehead, and Goliath fell to the ground. This story marked the beginning of David’s reputation as a leader and warrior.

David didn’t have any physical armor to wear. Instead, he was protected by a sense of justice and righteousness. For David, insults about his stature were taken on the chin. What really bothered David was that the name of the LORD was being insulted. Goliath stood as a threat to David’s family and neighbors.

Children can relate to the story of David and Goliath. When you are small, the world can feel as though it’s full of giants. Grown-ups sometimes use big words and big thoughts that children find confusing or even scary. But children and adults can remember to “be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power” (Ephesians 6:10). Our God is a God of justice.



Bible Story

David Defeats Goliath

1 Samuel 17:1-50a

Castle Callout

Armor Up with Justice!

 **Teacher Tip**
This Bible Background feature is a supplemental aid provided to give you context for each session’s story before you teach it. ***You may share this information with your Knights, if desired, but it is not a recommended portion of the intended lesson.***

Additional Bible Reading
 1 Samuel 16
 Micah 6:8

Make-It-And-Take-It Bible Craft

Breastplate of Justice

Purpose

Knights will create a part of the Armor of God to help them to remember their quests from VBS.

Ages

Appropriate for all ages.

Preparation

See steps below.

Directions



Leader Preparation Steps:

Gather the necessary supplies.

Make sure Knights' names are on their craft.

Use the templates to cut out the shape of breastplates. Cut poster boards in the same shape using brown paper.

Glue these items together.

Make copies of the template with the word JUSTICE on it.

Thread yarn through the holes.



Bible Story

David Defeats Goliath

1 Samuel 17:1-50a

Castle Callout

Armor Up with Justice!

Materials

-  brown paper grocery bag or brown craft paper
-  paper
-  school glue
-  posterboard
-  hole punch
-  yarn
-  glue sticks
-  markers
-  glitter glue
-  scissors
-  washi tape
-  **Stay-Put Stickers** (optional)
-  **Stencils Set** (optional)
-  **Stampers Set** (optional)
-  templates (page 5)
-  dot markers (preschool only)

Teacher Tip

Brown paper in various shades can be found at dollar stores!



Step 1: Cut out the oval circle with the word JUSTICE. Knights can be creative as they cut out this shape.

Step 2: Knights decorate the letters JUSTICE and the breastplate using a variety of craft supplies.

Step 3: Glue the completed oval shape onto the breastplate. Leaders help thread the yarn through the holes.



Preschool Adaptation: In addition to the other supplies, suggest preschoolers use dot markers to decorate their craft.



Bible Tie-In

In our Bible story we hear about a shepherd boy named David and a tall man named Goliath. In Ephesians 6 we are told that we can wear the Armor of God. It might not be real armor, but it can help us face hard things. When we stand up for justice we are wearing the Armor of God. We know that God is with us. As we create this breastplate of justice, we can wear it and have fun. Even if we don't wear it, God will always be with us, loving and caring for us. Let's say thank you to God for always being with us and for loving us.



Cokesbury Craft

Mosaic Castle Scene

Purpose

Knights will create a fun castle craft to help them to remember their time at Knights of North Castle VBS.

Preparation

Cover each table with a tablecloth. Set out supplies. Write Knights' names on the back of the crafts.

Directions



Step 1: Knights peel off the color dots and jewels of their choice to complete the castle scene.



Ages

Appropriate for school-aged children.



Bible Story

David Defeats Goliath

1 Samuel 17:1-50a

Castle Callout

Armor Up with Justice!

Materials

-  plastic tablecloth
-  **Mosaic Castle Scene**
-  marker or pen to write names

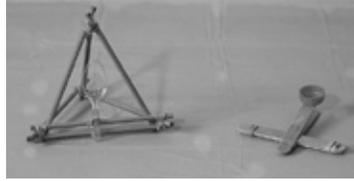
Catapults!

I. Preparation

Build two to three catapult models ahead of time to give Knights ideas to work from. Use the pictures provided here or search online for suggestions.

II. Introduction

Say Something Like: **God helped David have the faith to fight Goliath and win. North Castle also needs protection. Let's build catapults to protect it!**



Ask: (show materials) **What are these materials usually used for?**

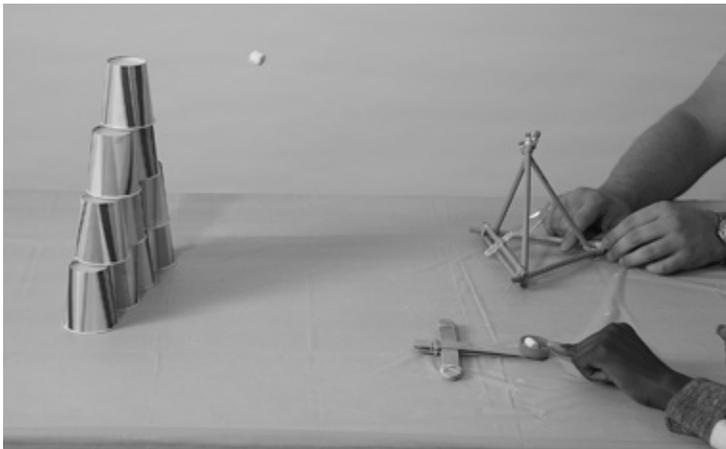
Ask: **How could we build a catapult from these items?**

III. Experiment

Step 1. Allow Knights to select materials and create their own catapults. The design should include something to function as the “bucket” for their marshmallow or paper wad (such as the bowl of a spoon or plastic cap), a throwing arm, and a base. If Knights are struggling to keep their catapult upright, suggest adding weight to the base to counterbalance the bucket. Alternatively, they can tape the base to the table.

Step 2. Build a pyramid with the small paper cups. Allow Knights to test their catapults. Which ones are successful at knocking over the cups?

Step 3. Bring Knights back together to discuss results. What did successful catapults have in common? Unsuccessful ones? What did you learn from watching other catapult tests?



Bible Story

David Defeats Goliath

1 Samuel 17:1-50a

Castle Callout

Armor Up with Justice!

Materials

(can include)

-  wooden craft sticks
-  cardboard boxes
-  plastic spoons
-  plastic bottles
-  plastic bottle caps
-  tape
-  glue
-  rubber bands
-  clothespins
-  bathroom-sized paper cups
-  marshmallows or small paper wads
-  pencils

Safety Tips

Knights should wear safety goggles.

IV. Side Quest

Provide paper cups or another target for Knights to test their creations.

V. How does it work?

Catapults are based on a simple machine called a lever. A lever uses a long arm connected to a fixed point (called the fulcrum) to change how a force acts on an object. In this case, the handle of the spoon or a craft stick is the arm and the fulcrum is located where the stick meets the base of the catapult. You press down on the catapult, but it releases the force going up. The lever also multiplies the force—the marshmallow is released with more force than you used to push down the arm of the catapult.

VI. Bible Tie-in

These catapults may not actually protect our castle very well, especially if we are firing marshmallows! Fortunately, our relationship with and commitment to God and God's children will help us stand up for justice.

Castle Cracker

Theme Snack

Ingredients

-  graham crackers
-  stick pretzels
-  marshmallows and marshmallow fluff
-  sun nut butter (made from sunflower seeds)
-  clear or blue crystal sugar or sanding sugar

Directions

-  Give each child a paper plate and a jumbo craft stick or other child-safe spreader.
-  Using 2 sheets of graham crackers, make a sandwich with the marshmallow fluff.
-  Take $\frac{1}{4}$ of another graham cracker and break into 3 equal pieces. These will be the turrets for the castle.
-  Cut off one side of a marshmallow (about $\frac{1}{3}$).
-  Form a flag with the cut off piece and attach to the middle turret with a stick pretzel.
-  The remaining part of the marshmallow will be the castle's front door.
-  Spread a thin layer of marshmallow fluff on top of graham cracker.
-  Sprinkle with blue crystal sugar or blue sanding sugar.



Bible Story

David Defeats Goliath

1 Samuel 17:1-50a

Castle Callout

Armor Up with Justice!

Materials

-  paper plates
-  jumbo craft sticks or other child-safe spreaders
-  knife (adult use only)



Reflection Time Journaling

Younger Knights

First and second graders complete the **Younger Elementary Reproducible Fun Page** on page 11.

As Knights are journaling, discuss the following questions.

- 🏰 **How did Goliath challenge King Saul and the Israelites? What did he say to them?** (*Pick one person to fight me; whoever wins that fight wins the battle.*)
- 🏰 **How do you think you would feel if you saw and heard Goliath? Would you feel more like King Saul and the Israelite soldiers or like David?**
- 🏰 **Does it surprise you that Saul and the Israelite Army were afraid to face Goliath? Why or why not?**

David trusted God more than physical armor like Saul's or Goliath's. He must have really trusted that God would help him find what he needed to meet the challenge. And David did find five smooth stones to help him win. David knew that if he was going to be strong, he would have to be with God or be "in the Lord."

Speaking of being strong, who can say our Banner Verse with me? ("Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power." Ephesians 6:10)

If you wonder how you can face challenges that might seem bigger than you, remember that with God you can find what you need to help you meet your challenges.

Older Knights

Third through sixth graders complete the **Older Elementary Reproducible Fun Page** on page 12.

As Knights are journaling, discuss the following questions.

- 🏰 **What was the challenge Goliath made to King Saul and the Israelite army?** (*Pick one person to fight me; who ever wins that fight wins the battle.*)
- 🏰 **Does it surprise you that Saul and the Israelite Army were afraid to face Goliath? Why or why not?**
- 🏰 **What would you think if you had seen David, someone not much older than you, volunteer to face this nine-foot-tall giant?**
- 🏰 **How do you think King Saul and the Israelite army felt after David's victory over Goliath? How do you think the Philistines felt?**

Sometimes the challenges we face make us feel like there is no way we can meet them. To most people at the time, David's victory over Goliath probably seemed impossible. But God leveled the playing field. Only strength that comes from God made this possible.

Speaking of strength, who can say our Banner Verse with me? ("Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power." Ephesians 6:10)

We all face challenges, obstacles, or giants in our lives. The key is to remember we are never really alone in them.

Closing Prayer

God stood with David all those years ago, and God stands with each of us today.

Before I bid thee a fond farewell, let us join together in prayer.

Our closing prayer is a call-and-response prayer. I will pray my part, and you will respond by praying out loud, "God is standing with me. God is always there!"

Let's try your part.

(Lead the students in praying, "God is standing with me. God is always there!")

Let us pray.

**In the morning, warm and bright,
In the middle of the night,**
God is standing with me. God is always there.

**When my heart is full of song,
When I put my shoes on wrong,**
God is standing with me. God is always there.

**When I'm leading in the race,
When I'm running in last place,**
God is standing with me. God is always there.

**In my classroom, church, or home,
With my friends or on my own,**
God is standing with me. God is always there.

Amen.



Bible Story

David Defeats Goliath

1 Samuel 17:1-50a

Castle Callout

Armor Up with Justice!

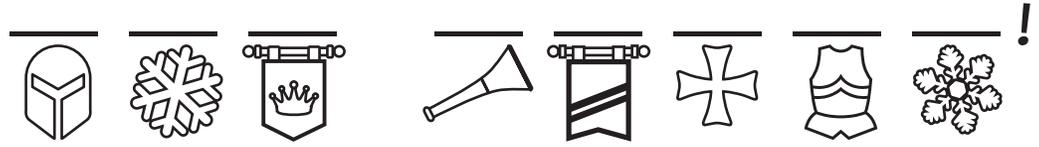
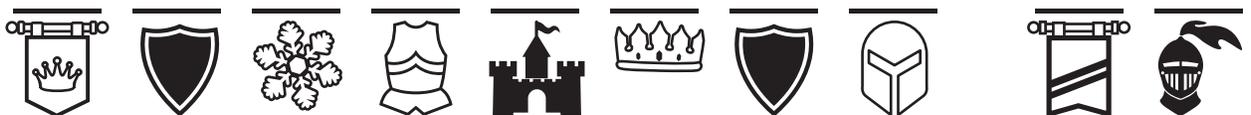
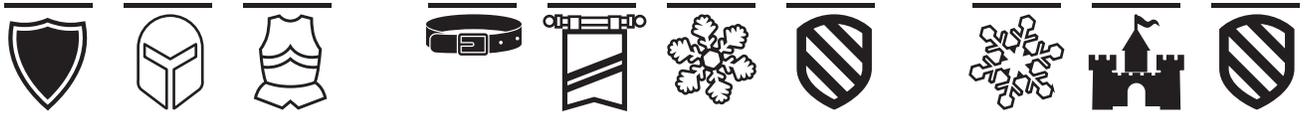
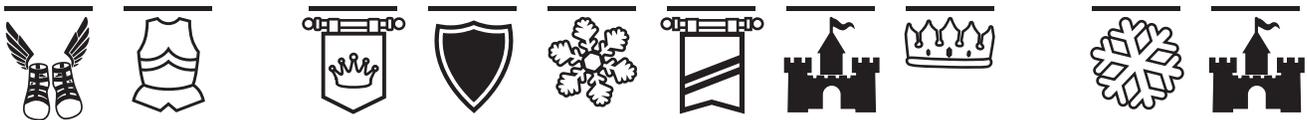
Banner Verse



Ephesians 6:10 (NRSV)

Use the code to discover the Banner Verse.

A 	B 	D 	E 	F 	G 	H 	I 
L 	N 	O 	P 	R 	S 	T 	W 



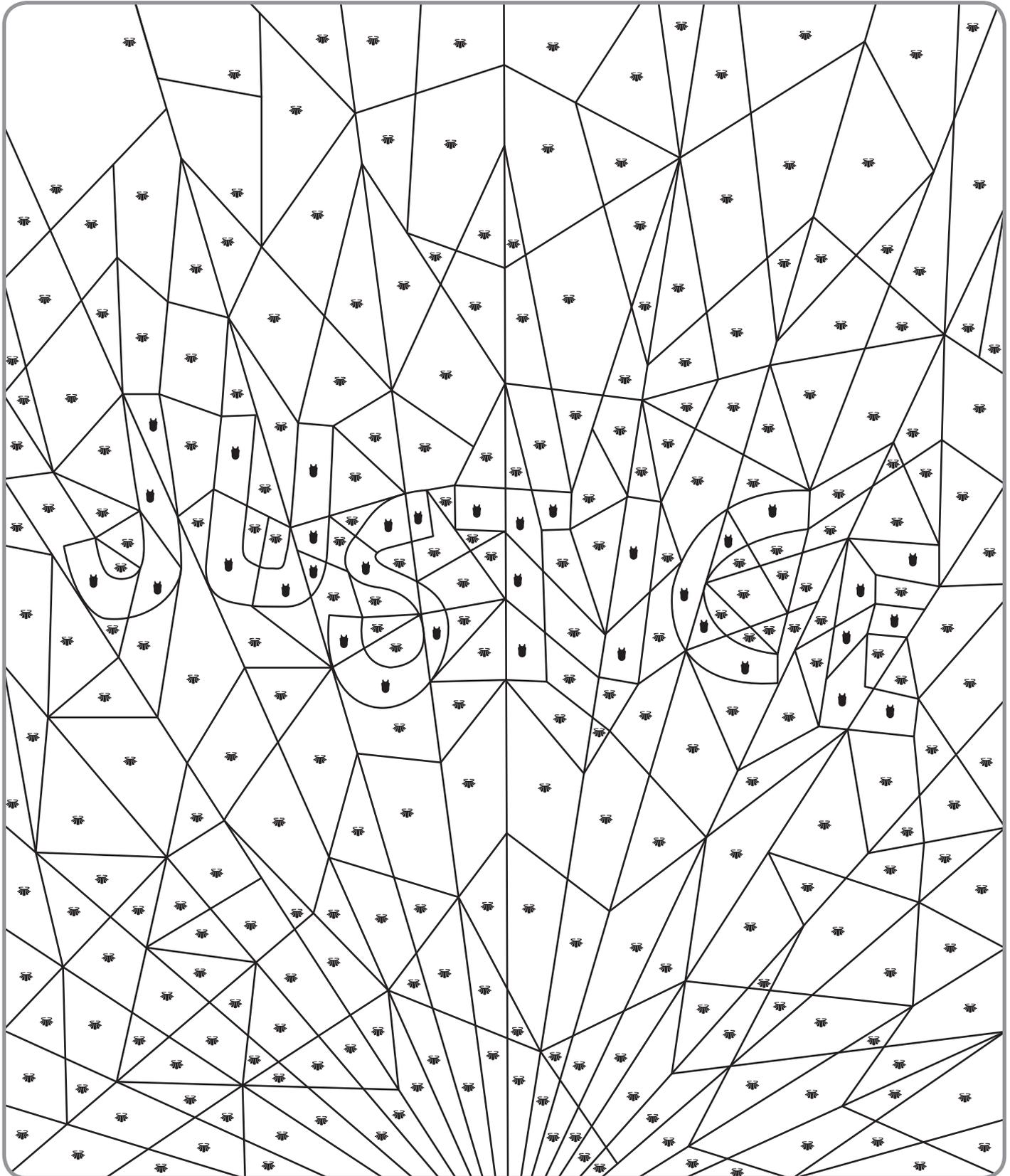
6:10

Castle
Callout



Armor Up with Justice!

Use the symbol key below to color the picture and find the word left out of the next statement:
God's strength helps us face our giants and fight for _____!



TAKE-HOME PAGE

Session

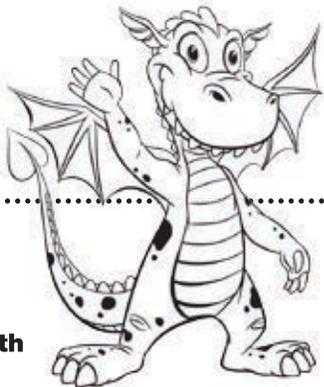
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BIBLE STORY

David Defeats Goliath

1 Samuel 17:1-50a

Goliath's people, the Philistines, were the enemies of David's people, the Israelites. At that time (around 1020 BCE), it was common for opposing armies to choose representatives to fight in hand-to-hand combat. A win for either army's representative counted as a win for the whole nation. The problem for Israel in this story was that no one— not even King Saul—was brave enough to face Goliath. David was not a soldier, but a shepherd, and he was a passionate follower of God. When he witnessed the injustice of Goliath's words and treatment of the people of Israel, David volunteered as Israel's representative. David swung his sling and launched a stone into the air. It hit Goliath right on the forehead and he fell to the ground, defeated.



CASTLE CALLOUT

Armor Up with Justice!



FAMILY FOLLOW-UP

Let's think of some ways God's strength helps us face our own giants or fears. What are some ways we can help others fight for justice?

BANNER VERSE

**Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power.
Ephesians 6:10**

I am God's Knight and I am on a quest in search of the King's Armor at VBS! Coming next time at VBS, Mary Goes on a Journey to Bethlehem. Can't wait to see you!

**VBS
UPDATE**



**BE STRONG IN THE LORD AND IN THE
STRENGTH OF HIS POWER! EPHESIANS 6:10**

