

Knights of North Castle At-Home Packet



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Materials

Craft

-  inexpensive hat or helmet
-  **Stay-Put Stickers** (optional)
-  colorful foam sheets with adhesive backing
-  sturdy scissors
(ADULT use only)
-  plastic tablecloth
-  **Paper Dragon Puppet Kit**
-  markers
-  crayons

Science

-  2 flat, firm surfaces of the same size, at least 12" x 12" (options include thin wooden boards, plastic cutting boards, cookie sheets, or the covers from an unwanted hardback book, etc.)
-  4 bouncy balls or tennis balls
-  a ruler or paint stirrer
-  2 large rubber bands
-  2 large binder clips
-  tape
-  non-drying modeling clay
-  paper straws cut in half or coffee stirrers
-  sheets of cardstock
-  scissors

Snack

-  stick pretzels, beef sticks, or string cheese
-  Pringles® potato chip
-  cheese crackers with cheese filling
-  carrot stick, celery stick, Fruit Roll-Ups®, or Twizzlers®
-  round crackers or twisted pretzels
-  orange slices or cheese curls
-  canned cheese or raisins
-  one plate per Knight
-  strips of paper and pencils to label parts (optional)

Bible Background

Acts 16:16-40

Helmet of Salvation

In today's Bible story, Paul and his associate, Silas, are in Macedonia. The decision to travel to this area came about in an interesting way. One night, after trying to move to a couple of different places, Paul had a dream. In the dream, a man told the apostle to come and share the good news with the people of Macedonia. Paul and Silas immediately began their journey to this new destination.

Eventually, Paul and Silas arrive at a city called Philippi. Paul's custom was to begin building relationships with the Jewish people living in the cities of the Roman Empire. He and Silas found a group of women who met to pray near the shore of a river. These women would become the foundation of the church that later grows in Philippi.

From there, the story takes a few interesting turns. One of the women, Lydia, invited Paul into her home. As Paul and Silas were on their way to the place of prayer, a strange woman began proclaiming loudly that Paul and Silas were servants of the Most High God and that people should listen to them. The woman is a slave and made money for her masters by telling fortunes. This continued for many days until, finally having had enough, Paul says, "In the name of Jesus Christ, I command you to leave her!" (Acts 16:18). At this, the spirit inside the woman left. But her masters weren't happy—their way of making money had been taken away, so they looked to take revenge on Paul and Silas.

The men took Paul and Silas before city officials and accused them of causing trouble in the city. The whole city turned against Paul and Silas, and eventually they were beaten and imprisoned. Around midnight, Paul and Silas were singing hymns of worship when an earthquake shook the jail. All the doors swung open, and the prisoners inside were free. Fearing that he would face terrible punishment for losing prisoners, the jailer shook before Paul and asked, "What must I do to be rescued?" Paul told the jailer about Jesus, and the man and his family became followers of Christ.

Through all the twists and turns of this story, we see a jailer and his family being told the good news of Jesus—we see a story of salvation. For Paul, the armor associated with salvation is the helmet. Helmets are incredibly important for any dangerous activity. Not only do they protect your brain, they also protect your eyes and ears. We can almost hear Paul saying, "Keep your wits about you. Don't lose sight of the salvation you've experienced in Jesus." Remembering this truth protected Paul as he faced many obstacles—even the threat of death. When you are facing dangerous or scary times, you can choose to be like Paul and "be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power" (Ephesians 6:10).



Bible Story

Midnight Praise with Paul and Silas

Acts 16:16-40

Castle Callout

Armor Up with Salvation!

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:

📖 Romans 10:9

📖 Ephesians 6

Make-It-And-Take-It Bible Craft

Helmet of Salvation

Purpose

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

Ages

Appropriate for younger children.

Preparation

Cut several strips from the foam sheets. Select crosses and star shapes from the bag of **Stay-Put Stickers**.

Directions



Step 1: Attach several strips of colorful foam around the hat. Start at the top middle and work down to the bottom edge of the hat.



Step 2: Attach several stars wherever you wish on the hat.



Bible Story

Midnight Praise with Paul and Silas

Acts 16:16-40

Castle Callout

Armor Up with Salvation!

Materials

- inexpensive hat or helmet
- Stay-Put Stickers** (optional)
- colorful foam sheets with adhesive backing
- sturdy scissors (ADULT use only)

Cokesbury Craft

Paper Dragon Puppet

Purpose

Knights will decorate a dragon puppet that will help them to remember their time at VBS.

Ages

Appropriate for all ages. Young Knights might need assistance.

Preparation

Cover tables with a tablecloth.
Set out supplies.

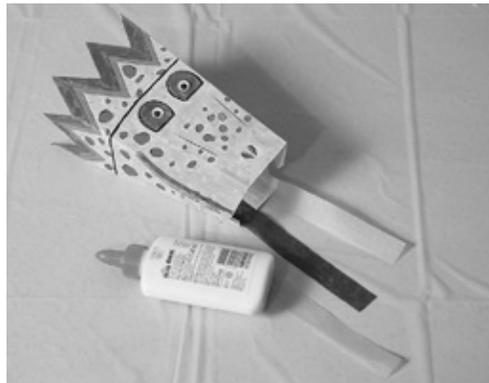
Directions



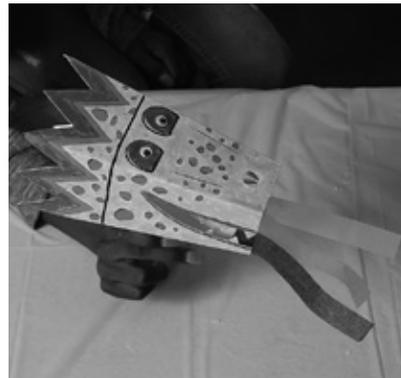
Step 1: Decorate the paper puppet using crayons and markers.



Step 2: Fold puppet at the crease marks, then add the googly eyes.



Step 3: Glue tissue strips onto the puppet craft. Insert the jumbo craft stick into the bottom of the puppet. Gently slide the craft stick up so that the top of the puppet rests on the top of the stick.



Bible Story

Midnight Praise with Paul and Silas

Acts 16:16-40

Castle Callout

Armor Up with Salvation!

Materials

-  plastic tablecloth
-  **Paper Dragon Puppet Kit**
-  markers
-  crayons

Earthquake Engineering

I. Preparation

Build the earthquake shake table before Knights arrive. Sandwich the four balls between the two surfaces, arranging them in two pairs to support the top board. Wrap the sandwich with a rubber band on both sides. Glue or tape the ruler to the bottom of the top board. This will be the handle for moving the shake table.

II. Introduction

Say Something Like: **God protected Paul and Silas through an earthquake in jail. God helps people protect themselves from earthquakes by giving us the ability to build safely. Today, we're going to try to build a castle that can survive an earthquake.**

Ask: **What happens during an earthquake?** (the ground moves and shifts, shaking everything on top)

Ask: (Demonstrate shake table) **How could this help us practice building something that can survive an earthquake?**

III. Experiment

Step 1. Build a basic cube structure with 12 stirrers or straws. Use the clay to anchor your "castle" to a sheet of card stock and to connect the stirrers.

Step 2. Place the card stock, with the castle on top, on the shake table. Use the binder clips to hold the card stock in place.

Step 3. Pull or push on the handle several times to shake the building. It is likely that your castle will collapse after several shakes.

Step 4: Challenge your Knights to build a castle that will be more successful on the shake table. Give each group 20 or more coffee stirrers or straws, a sheet of card stock, and a golf-ball-sized lump of modeling clay. Make scissors available in case they want to cut their stirrers or straws.

Step 5: Invite Knights to take turns testing their creations on the shake table. If their castles collapse, suggest adding triangular supports to their structures.



Bible Story

Midnight Praise with Paul and Silas

Acts 16:16-40

Castle Callout

Armor Up with Salvation!

Materials

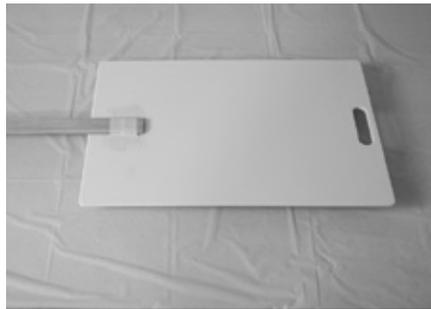
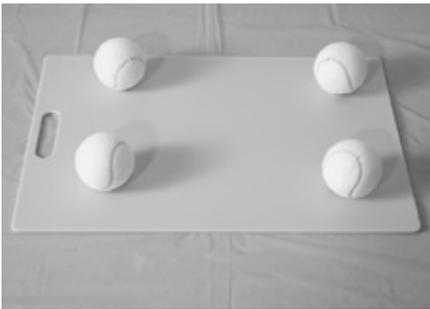
-  2 flat, firm surfaces of the same size, at least 12" x 12" (options include thin wooden boards, plastic cutting boards, cookie sheets, or the covers from an unwanted hardback book, etc.)
-  4 bouncy balls or tennis balls
-  a ruler or paint stirrer
-  2 large rubber bands
-  2 large binder clips
-  tape
-  nondrying modeling clay
-  paper straws cut in half or coffee stirrers
-  sheets of cardstock
-  scissors

IV. How does it work?

The outer layer of the Earth is broken into large tectonic plates that move slowly around the surface of the Earth. As those plates move, they push and rub against one another. Earthquakes result from the friction and collisions between the plates. Engineers have found that including triangle shapes in building structures helps them stay strong during earthquakes. This is because force is distributed more evenly over a triangle. Engineers use more sophisticated versions of shake plates to test new ideas for designs before they build.

V. Bible Tie-in

Paul and Silas didn't run away after the earthquake because they knew the guard or jailer would get in trouble if they escaped. But they also knew that the guard's deepest need wasn't physical safety, just like our deepest need isn't physical safety, even during an earthquake. God wants us to know that we are known and loved and that we are invited into a relationship with this God who loves us.



Armor of God on a Plate

Armor of God Snack

Ingredients

-  stick pretzels, beef sticks, or string cheese
-  Pringles® potato chip
-  cheese crackers with cheese filling
-  carrot stick, celery stick, Fruit Roll-Ups®, or Twizzlers®
-  round crackers or twisted pretzels
-  orange slices or cheese curls
-  canned cheese or raisins

Directions

-  Build an Armor of God using your choice of ingredients: (or find fun ones of your own)
-  Sword of the Spirit: stick pretzels, beef sticks, or string cheese
-  Shield of Faith: Pringles® potato chip
-  Breastplate of Righteousness: square crackers or cheese crackers
-  Belt of Truth: carrot stick, celery stick, Fruit Roll-Ups®, or Twizzlers®
-  Shoes of Peace: individual orange slices or cheese curls
-  Head: round crackers or twisted pretzel
-  Face: canned cheese or raisins
-  Optional: Make labels for the Armor of God.



Bible Story

Midnight Praise with Paul and Silas

Acts 16:16-40

Castle Callout

Armor Up with Salvation!

Materials

-  one plate per Knight
-  strips of paper and pencils to label parts (optional)

Reflection Time Journaling

Younger Knights

First and second graders complete the **Younger Elementary Reproducible Fun Page** on page 10.

As Knights are journaling, discuss the following questions.

Why were Paul and Silas thrown into prison? *(They healed an enslaved person who had a spirit that made her able to tell the future.)*

How do you think Paul and Silas felt when they were being put in prison? How would we feel if we were punished for doing something we thought was good?

What do you think the other prisoners thought when Paul and Silas began to sing and pray to God? How do you think Paul, Silas, and the other prisoners felt when the earthquake started?

From the story, we can tell that Paul and Silas had a great love for God and a strong relationship with Jesus.

Speaking of 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 we want to have the kind of love for God and relationship with Jesus that Paul and Silas had, we can follow the examples of Paul, Silas, and even the jailer and the jailer’s family.

Older Knights

Third through sixth graders complete the **Older Elementary Reproducible Fun Page** on page 11.

As Knights are journaling, discuss the following questions.

Why were the slave owners angry with Paul and Silas? *(When Paul healed their slave of the spirit who made her able to tell the future, they were no longer able to profit from her enslavement.)*

Several people were rescued in this story. Can you name some of them and the way they were rescued?*(The slave lady was rescued from the fortune-telling spirit; Paul, Silas and the prisoners were rescued from their chains; the jailer was rescued from punishment when the prisoners did not run away; the jailer and his family were rescued when they invited Jesus into their lives; Paul and Silas were rescued when they were set free from prison by the authorities.)*

Do you have an idea how any of these folks who were rescued might have felt?

From the story, we can tell that Paul and Silas had a great love for God and knew the strength of God’s power to rescue.

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)

If you wonder how you can know God’s strength to rescue, the examples of Paul, Silas, the jailer and his family in this story can be helpful as you explore this in your own life.

Closing Prayer

Knights of North Castle, before I bid thee farewell, let us join in our closing prayer.

As we pray, I will say a part and you will respond by saying, "God loves me."

Let me hear you say your part.

(Lead the Knights in saying, "God loves me.")

Beautiful. Let us pray.

Storyteller: **When I'm feeling all alone**

Knights: God loves me.

Storyteller: **When I'm straying far from home**

Knights: God loves me.

Storyteller: **When I'm in the sun or rain**

Knights: God loves me.

Storyteller: **When I'm feeling joy or pain**

Knights: God loves me.

All: **Amen.**



Bible Story

Midnight Praise with Paul and Silas

Acts 16:16-40

Castle Callout

Armor Up with Salvation!

Banner Verse



Ephesians 6:10 (NRSV)

Find and circle all the words in the Banner Verse.



BE STRONG IN THE
LORD AND IN THE
STRENGTH OF HIS POWER

Banner Verse



Ephesians 6:10 (NRSV)

Follow the directions below to discover the Banner Verse.

1. Cross out all words that begin with D.
2. Cross out all words that begin with M.
3. Cross out all words that end in Y.
4. Cross out all words that are numbers.
5. Cross out all words that are foods.
6. Fill in the blanks below using the words that are left.

DROP	DO	BE	EIGHT	MUD	BY
STRONG	DAY	NINE	CARROTS	DRY	IN
WHY	FOUR	THE	APPLES	DANCE	SKY
DANCE	LORD	TODAY	CAKE	ELEVEN	MINE
AND	IN	TWO	MILK	DOOR	FIVE
ONE	DON'T	THE	MOM	MIST	PRAY
MORE	BREAD	WAFFLES	THREE	STRENGTH	TWO
FUNNY	OF	DRIP	CANDY	MUST	HEY
DELI	TRY	SIX	MADE	STORY	HIS
MOUNTAIN	DECIDE	POWER	DISH	TEN	DONE



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TAKE-HOME PAGE

Session

5



BIBLE STORY

**Midnight Praise
with Paul and Silas**

Acts 16:6-40

Paul and Silas travelled to Macedonia, where they were arrested for their faith in Jesus. They had been singing hymns of worship in their cell, when around midnight an earthquake shook the entire jail. All the cell doors swung open and the prisoners inside were freed. When the jailer discovered what had happened, he thought the prisoners had escaped. He was so terrified of the punishment to come that he was prepared to kill himself. But Paul called out loudly and assured him that no one had left. "The jailer ... rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. He led them outside and asked, 'Honorable masters, what must I do to be rescued?'" (verses 29-30).

They said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your entire household." (Acts 16:31) The jailer brought Paul and Silas to his home that night and cared for them, and then he and everyone in his house were baptized.

CASTLE CALLOUT

Armor Up with Salvation!



FAMILY FOLLOW-UP

Let's think of some ways God's strength sets us free and helps us share the good news with others.

BANNER VERSE

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

I am God's Knight and that I get to wear all of God's Armor! Today I heard how I can armor up with salvation. We have loved having you at VBS! Look forward to seeing you again at Sunday School and church!

**VBS
UPDATE**



**ARMOR UP WITH TRUTH!, JUSTICE,
PEACE, FAITH, AND SALVATION!**

