



**stand firm**  
**IN THE ARMOR OF GOD**

**2021-2022 IPHC BOYS' & GIRLS' MINISTRIES THEME**



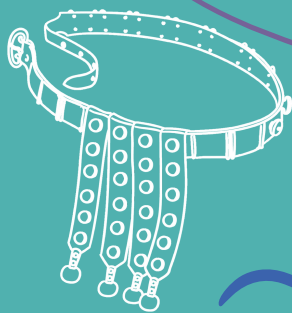
## DEAR LEADER,

A recent Barna study indicates that consistent weekly **Bible reading has a positive impact on an individual's spiritual growth**, as evidenced by their maturing fruit. Those with this habit prioritize "living their faith" in public and experience decreased loneliness, anxiety, and depression. Without the research, though, pastors and long-term believers know that being immersed in God's Word is essential for the Christian life, and Scripture itself commands us to be people of the Book. (See Hebrews 4:12, 2 Timothy 2:15, Psalm 119:105 for examples.)

**Thus, we are making it our goal to help boys and girls, along with their families, read and study the Bible for a minimum of ten minutes a day, four days a week.** This desire stems partly from our mission statement-- "We desire to create intentional ministry opportunities for boys and girls who are becoming lifelong disciples of Jesus." Additionally, we are using this next year to focus on two of our core values -- 1. Partnering with parents to create an environment of discipleship for their sons and daughters" and 2. "Empowering boys and girls to know God through His Word." To read more about our mission and values, visit [iphc.org/boys](http://iphc.org/boys) or [iphc.org/girls](http://iphc.org/girls).

Leaders can utilize this challenge to emphasize Bible reading by sending the attached documents home each week for children and teens to **complete on their own or with their parents/guardians**. Then, we hope you will discuss the Scripture readings with your families. Here are some insights you can include:

- Nearly half of Christian teens say they never read their bible. (Global Youth Culture Report)
- Those who engage with the Bible 4 or more times a week are 30% less likely to struggle with loneliness and anxiety. (Center for Bible Engagement)
- The Lord calls us to "stand firm," in Christ (Ephesians 6:10-20). One of the most important ways we can do this is by developing a habit of Scripture reading and study.



# BELT OF TRUTH

ELEMENTARY BIBLE STUDY GUIDE INTRO

## WELCOME

We begin our study of the ARMOR OF God as listed in Ephesians 6:10-20. We will discover why we need this armor, the purpose of each piece, and how to use it effectively. The first piece of armor we want to look at is the Belt of Truth.

The belt of truth is what holds all the pieces of the armor together and makes them work. In John 18:37 (NIV), Jesus tells us that His mission on earth is to testify of the truth and to point people to the truth. The truth is that He is God in human form and that He came to bring spiritual salvation through a personal relationship with God. This is God's truth, the Good News to everyone!

Each day, be sure to take time to read the prayer & work on the memory verse.

## BONUS RESOURCE

Unseen: The Armor of God for Kids, Priscilla Shire

## MEMORY VERSE #1

"Lord, teach me what you want me to do. And I will live by your truth. Teach me to respect you completely."  
Ps 86:11 ICB

## MEMORY VERSE #2

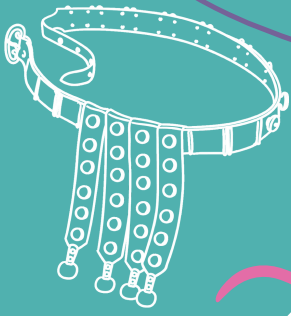
"I am the Lord, and I speak the truth. I say what is right."  
Isaiah 45:19 ICB

## PRAYER

"Jesus, I believe that you are the truth. Thank you for coming to save me from my sins.

Please help me to be able to tell others about this truth and to share what you have done for me."

Now thank Him for all the good things He has done for you and ask Him for any needs you may have.



# BELT OF TRUTH

ELEMENTARY BIBLE STUDY GUIDE | 1

\*All Scripture references are taken from the International Children's Bible

WEEK 1

**READ EPHESIANS 6:10**

**Talk About:**  
What does it mean to be strong in the LORD?  
**Think About:**  
We are not strong enough to fight Satan ourselves. That is why we have God's armor.

**READ EPHESIANS 6:11**

**Talk About:**  
What are some of the schemes or tricks of Satan?  
**Think About:**  
With the strength God gives us in His armor, we can stand and not be tricked.

**READ EPHESIANS 6:12**

**Talk About:**  
Who is our enemy?  
**Think About:**  
Satan is our enemy because he is God's enemy. He is the ruler of darkness.

**READ EPHESIANS 6:12**

**Talk About:**  
Are people who do bad things our enemy?  
**Think About:**  
People who do bad things are not our enemies. They are called sinners, because their hearts follow Satan and not God.

WEEK 2

**READ ROMANS 5:8**

**Talk About:**  
Does Jesus love Sinners?  
**Think About:**  
Jesus loves all sinners, but He does not want them to stay sinners.

**READ EPHESIANS 6:13**

**Talk About:**  
Why do we need the full Armor of God?  
**Think About:**  
God's armor helps us stand strong against Satan's tricks.

**READ EPHESIANS 6:14**

**Talk About:**  
Why do you think the first piece of armor is the Belt of Truth?  
**Think About:**  
If we don't know the truth, we will believe a lie.

**READ JOHN 8:44**

**Talk About:**  
Can we trust Satan?  
**Think About:**  
We cannot trust Satan. There is no truth in him.

WEEK 3

**READ JOHN 14:6**

**Talk About:**  
Who is the truth?  
**Think About:**  
Jesus is the truth. He cannot lie. You can believe His every word.

**READ JOHN 14:6**

**Talk About:**  
Where does Jesus lead us?  
**Think About:**  
The only way to God is by accepting Jesus in your heart.

**READ JOHN 8:32**

**Talk About:**  
What will knowing the truth do for us?  
**Think About:**  
You will be free from sin and the tricks of Satan.

**READ 1 JOHN 1:8**

**Talk About:**  
Does everyone have sin?  
**Think About:**  
Everyone has sin and must ask for God to forgive them.

WEEK 4

**READ 3 JOHN 1:4**

**Talk About:**  
What does it mean to walk in the way of truth?  
**Think About:**  
Jesus is truth. When we walk in the way of truth, we follow Him.

**READ JOHN 17:17**

**Talk About:**  
What does "sanctify them by the truth" mean?  
**Think About:**  
One translation says, "make them ready for your service".

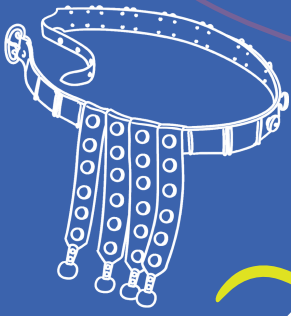
**READ JOHN 17:17**

**Talk About:**  
What is the truth that is talked about here?  
**Think About:**  
God's word, the Bible is the truth we need to obey.

**READ MEMORY VERSE**

**Talk About:**  
What does God want us to do?  
**Think About:**  
If we live by God's word, we will live in truth.

**Memory Verse: "Lord, teach me what you want me to do. And I will live by your truth. Teach me to respect you completely. Psalms 86:11 ICB**



# BELT OF TRUTH

ELEMENTARY BIBLE STUDY GUIDE | 2

\*All Scripture references are taken from the International Children's Bible

WEEK 1

<p><b>READ JOHN 18:37</b></p> <p><b>Talk About:</b> What did Jesus say He was born to do?</p> <p><b>Think About:</b> Just like Jesus, we are to tell others of this truth.</p>	<p><b>READ JOHN 18:37</b></p> <p><b>Talk About:</b> Who does Jesus say listens to Him?</p> <p><b>Think About:</b> If we belong to Jesus, we must listen and obey His words.</p>	<p><b>READ JOHN 15:26</b></p> <p><b>Talk About:</b> Does Jesus expect us to do all the things He says on our own? What is an advocate? How does the Advocate help us?</p> <p><b>Think About:</b> Jesus said He would send a helper to us.</p>	<p><b>READ JOHN 15:26</b></p> <p><b>Talk About:</b> Who is this advocate and helper?</p> <p><b>Think About:</b> The Helper is the Spirit of Truth, the Holy Spirit. Ask Jesus to send the Holy Spirit to you.</p>
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WEEK 2

<p><b>READ JOHN 16:13</b></p> <p><b>Talk About:</b> What happens when the Spirit of Truth comes?</p> <p><b>Think About:</b> The Spirit of Truth will guide us - help us know how to live and what to do.</p>	<p><b>READ JOHN 16:13</b></p> <p><b>Talk About:</b> Whose words does the Spirit hear and use to guide us?</p> <p><b>Think About:</b> We can trust the Spirit because He only speaks God's words.</p>	<p><b>READ JOHN 16:14</b></p> <p><b>Talk About:</b> How does the Spirit of Truth bring glory to Jesus?</p> <p><b>Think About:</b> The Spirit will give us the words to say to tell others about Jesus.</p>	<p><b>READ JOHN 4:23</b></p> <p><b>Talk About:</b> How does God want us to worship Him?</p> <p><b>Think About:</b> We are to worship God in spirit and truth.</p>
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WEEK 3

<p><b>READ JOHN 4:24</b></p> <p><b>Talk About:</b> What does it mean to worship God in spirit?</p> <p><b>Think About:</b> We must have a right attitude and worship God from our heart.</p>	<p><b>READ JOHN 4:24</b></p> <p><b>Talk About:</b> What does it mean to worship God in truth?</p> <p><b>Think About:</b> God is truth; the Bible is truth. We are to worship according to God's words.</p>	<p><b>READ JOHN 1:14</b></p> <p><b>Talk About:</b> Who is the Word that became a man?</p> <p><b>Think About:</b> Jesus is the Word of God, the Son of God, God's Truth sent to us.</p>	<p><b>READ 1 JOHN 1:6</b></p> <p><b>Talk About:</b> Can we walk in darkness and walk with Jesus?</p> <p><b>Think About:</b> We cannot have a relationship with Jesus and walk in the darkness. There is no darkness in Him at all.</p>
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WEEK 4

<p><b>READ 1 JOHN 1:7</b></p> <p><b>Talk About:</b> What does it mean to live in the light?</p> <p><b>Think About:</b> To live in the light is to have your sins forgiven. This is God's truth.</p>	<p><b>READ 2 THESS. 2:10</b></p> <p><b>Talk About:</b> Why are people lost?</p> <p><b>Think About:</b> Satan tricks people to refuse to love the truth.</p>	<p><b>READ 1 TIMOTHY 2:4</b></p> <p><b>Talk About:</b> Who does God want to be saved and know His Truth?</p> <p><b>Think About:</b> God's plan is for everyone to be saved.</p>	<p><b>READ 1 TIMOTHY 2:4</b></p> <p><b>Talk About:</b> Who is responsible to see that everyone knows the Truth?</p> <p><b>Think About:</b> As Christians, we must tell everyone about the Truth</p>
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Memory Verse: "I am the Lord, and I speak the truth. I say what is right." Isaiah 45:19 ICB



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