



stand firm
IN THE ARMOR OF GOD

2021-2022 IPHC BOYS' & GIRLS' MINISTRIES THEME



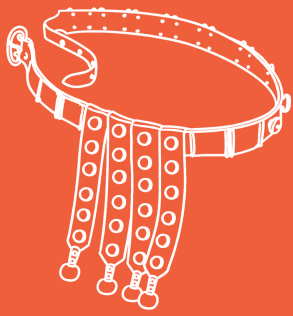
DEAR LEADER,

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 or 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

MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL 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

The Armor of God - Teen Bible Study,
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."

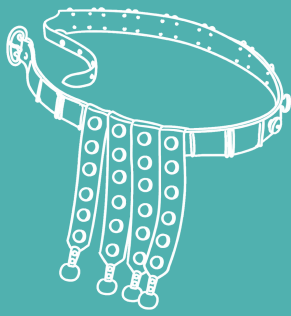
Isaiah 45:19 ICB

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

MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL BIBLE STUDY GUIDE | ONE

*All Scripture references are taken from the NIV translation unless otherwise noted.

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. We are not strong enough to stand firm in our faith and resist Satan. We have to put on the FULL armor of God.

READ EPHESIANS 6:11

Talk About:
What are some of the schemes or tricks of Satan?

Think About:
We must put on the FULL armor of God, not just part of it, to stand against the schemes of Satan.

READ EPHESIANS 6:12

Talk About:
Why do we tend to struggle or fight with other people? Who is our real enemy?

Think About:
Our fight should be against Satan, not against other people. He is the ruler of darkness.

READ EPHESIANS 6:12

Talk About:
Can we be friends with people who do bad things?

Think About:
People who do bad things need to know Jesus. If Jesus lives in us, we can share Him with others.

WEEK 2

READ ROMANS 5:8

Talk About:
What do you think it's like to love someone knowing he or she doesn't love you back?

Think About:
Jesus loves us so much that He died for us even while we were still sinners, before we love Him back.

READ EPHESIANS 6:13

Talk About:
How do we stand against evil? Why is it important that we stand against evil?

Think About:
We must put on the full armor of God because it helps us stand strong against evil.

READ EPHESIANS 6:14

Talk About:
Why do you think the first piece of armor is the Belt of Truth? Why is truth important?

Think About:
If we don't know the truth, we will believe a lie.

READ JOHN 8:44

Talk About:
What are some lies we believe that Satan tells us?

Think About:
We cannot trust Satan. There is no truth in him.

WEEK 3

READ JOHN 14:6

Talk About:
Who is the truth? Why is it important for us to understand that Jesus is the only truth, especially in our society today?

Think About:
We know that Satan tells lies, but we also know that Jesus is the truth. He cannot lie. You can believe His every word.

READ JOHN 14:6

Talk About:
How do we get to the Father?

Think About:
The world and Satan tell us there are many ways to get to God. Jesus is the only way to God.

READ JOHN 8:32

Talk About:
How does the truth set you free?

Think About:
Jesus is truth. Jesus frees us from sin and the tricks of Satan.

READ 1 JOHN 1:8

Talk About:
Who has sin? Why?

Think About:
Everyone has sin and must ask God to forgive them.

WEEK 4

READ 3 JOHN 1:4

Talk About:
What does it mean to walk in the truth?

Think About:
Jesus is the truth. When we follow Him, we walk in the truth.

READ JOHN 17:17

Talk About:
To sanctify means to be set apart or to be different. How can the truth make us different?

Think About:
Following Jesus and living according to His truth will make us different from the world.

READ JOHN 17:17

Talk About:
What is the truth that is talked about here?

Think About:
When we live according to God's Word, we live according to God's truth. God's word, the Bible, is the truth we need to obey.

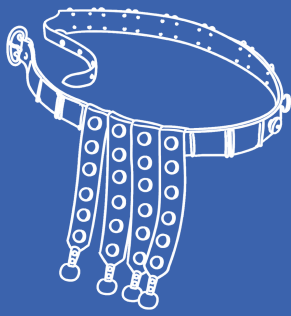
READ MEMORY VERSE

Talk About:
Why is it important to live by God's truth and not what the world says is true?

Think About:
God's truth is freedom and helps us to withstand the tricks of Satan.

Memory Verse: "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



BELT OF TRUTH

MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL BIBLE STUDY GUIDE | TWO

*All Scripture references are taken from the NIV translation unless otherwise noted.

WEEK 1

READ JOHN 18:37

Talk About:
What did Jesus say He was born to do?

Think About:
Just like Jesus, we are to tell others of the truth.

READ JOHN 18:37

Talk About:
Who does Jesus say listens to Him?

Think About:
If we are on the side of truth, we belong to Jesus and we must listen and obey His words.

READ JOHN 15:26

Talk About:
What is an advocate?
How does the Advocate help us?

Think About:
Jesus said He would send a helper to us.

READ JOHN 15:26

Talk About:
Who is this advocate and helper?

Think About:
The Advocate is the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of truth, our helper. Ask Jesus to send the Holy Spirit to you.

WEEK 2

READ JOHN 16:13 ICB

Talk About:
What happens when the Spirit of truth comes?

Think About:
The Spirit of Truth will lead and guide us - help us know how to live and what to do.

READ JOHN 16:13 ICB

Talk About:
Whose words does the Spirit of truth hear and use to guide us?

Think About:
We can trust the Spirit of truth because He only speaks God's words.

READ JOHN 16:14 ICB

Talk About:
How does the Spirit of truth bring glory to Jesus?

Think About:
The Spirit of truth will give us the words to say to tell others about Jesus.

READ JOHN 4:23

Talk About:
How does God want us to worship Him?

Think About:
We are to worship God in spirit and truth.

WEEK 3

READ JOHN 4:24

Talk About:
What does it mean to worship God in spirit?

Think About:
We must have a right attitude and worship God from our heart.

READ JOHN 4:24

Talk About:
What does it mean to worship God in truth?

Think About:
God is truth; the Bible is truth. We are to worship according to God's words.

READ JOHN 1:14 ICB

Talk About:
Who is the Word that became a man?

Think About:
Jesus is the Word of God, the Son of God, God's Truth sent to us.

READ 1 JOHN 1:6

Talk About:
Can we walk in darkness and walk with Jesus?

Think About:
We cannot have a relationship with Jesus and walk in the darkness. There is no darkness in Him at all.

WEEK 4

READ 1 JOHN 1:7

Talk About:
What does it mean to live in the light?

Think About:
To live in the light is to live according to God's word, to have your sins forgiven.

READ 2 THESS. 2:10

Talk About:
Why are people lost?
Why do people refuse the truth?

Think About:
Satan tricks people to refuse to love the truth.

READ 1 TIMOTHY 2:4

Talk About:
Who does God want to be saved and know His Truth?

Think About:
God's plan is for everyone to be saved.

READ 1 TIMOTHY 2:4

Talk About:
Who is responsible to see that everyone knows the Truth?

Think About:
As Christians, we must tell everyone about the Truth.

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