

I'm in the Lord's Army

CPR
2006



WORD AFLAME PRESS
8855 Dunn Road, Hazelwood, MO 63042
www.pentecostalpublishing.com



Children's Prayer Revival—2006

I'm in the Lord's Army

Service 1—Red Phase of Basic Prayer Training

Aim: To learn how to join the Lord's Army (salvation).

Scripture Text: II Timothy 2:1-4

Key Verse: "Be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might" (Ephesians 6:10).

POWER line: I'm in the Lord's Army. Yes, sir!

Supplies

- national flag and Christian flag
- camouflage uniforms, paint
- On the Job Training (OJT) Jar—large pickle jar or other wide-mouthed jar
- OJT prayer slips
- masking tape or sidewalk chalk
- posterboard (5) or banner paper
- large metal pot set upside down on a metal cake pan
- copy of skit for Buddy Bubba
- Bubba's uniform: strainer, garbage can lid, and broom
- prepared index cards
- whistle

Getting Ready

- Advise all teachers to wear camouflage to these services. Borrow from military personnel in your church or check with army/navy supply stores. Not necessary to wear full uniform.

- Hang flags.
- Make a copy of the skit for Buddy Bubba.
- Write words to songs on posterboard or flipchart.
- Write the Bible verse on the board or posterboard.
- Prepare index cards (preferably 4" x 6") for the Energy Outlet. You will need one card per child. On each card, from the list below write one military abbreviation on one side of the card and its meaning on the other side.
 - AD: Active Duty
 - ASAP: As Soon as Possible
 - BAH: Basic Allowance for Housing
 - BLT: Battalion Landing Team
 - Brig: military jail
 - CO: Commanding Officer
 - Comm: communications
 - Commander in Chief: President of the United States
 - Cover: hat
 - DI: Drill Instructor
 - Field day: day set aside for cleaning the office and barracks
 - Hashmark: stripes worn on forearm of dress and service uniforms
 - JOB: “junk on the bunk”; field gear and uniforms displayed on bed for inspection
 - LES: Leave and Earnings Statement

- MARS: Military Affiliated Radio System; used for sending messages to those deployed
- MOQ: Married Officer Quarters
- MOS: Military Occupational Specialty
- MP: Military Police
- Military brat: a term of endearment given to children born and reared in the service
- NCOIC: Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge
- OOD: Officer of the Day
- OJT: On the Job Training
- O-Dark Thirty: after midnight and before working hours
- PFT: Physical Fitness Test
- PT: Physical Training
- Rack: bed
- Recruit: an individual attending boot camp
- SOP: Standard Operating Procedure
- SRB: Service Record Book
- Squared away: prepared, taken care of, sharp looking
- UA: Unauthorized Absence
- XO: Executive Officer (second in command of a unit)

- Label OJT jar in large letters. Copy these lines and cut them apart, filling the jar.
If you have a lot of children participating, copy the lines two or three times so you will have enough for everyone.
 - Show me how to be a good neighbor.
 - Protect and care for my family.
 - Help me meet people You can help.
 - Thank You, Jesus, for being my special friend.
 - Please help me to understand the needs and feelings of people who are different from me.
 - Show me how to love and help people who have special needs.
 - Thank You for bringing people into my life that love and help me.
 - Help me to be happy to share with others.
 - Please protect me when I am not with my parents.
 - Thank You for loving me and providing for my needs.
 - Help me know when my teasing may hurt someone.
 - Show me how to forgive and love people who do wrong things to my friends or me.
 - Thank You for wanting to forgive my sins.
 - Give me the courage to say no to the temptation to cheat in school.
 - Show me how to bring honor to You in everything I do.
 - Thank You for giving me the Bible and the Holy Ghost to help me live like I should.

- Help me know when to tell an adult when I think someone is doing something wrong.
 - Help me know how to be a good citizen at school, in my neighborhood, and in my country.
 - Show me how to have Your happiness in my heart.
 - Make me aware of the good life I have as a Christian.
 - Thank You that Christians really can have more fun than people who don't know Jesus.
 - Please help me to be a helper to the elderly in our neighborhood.
 - Help me have a happy heart when You do good things for others.
 - Thank You for loving everyone, including me.
 - Please show me why I need a boss.
 - Help me obey those in authority over me: parents, teachers, pastor, and government officials.
 - Help me avoid saying bad words, especially using God's name thoughtlessly.
 - Thank You for loving me like a good shepherd loves his sheep.
 - Help me know in my heart that my parents will never stop loving me.
- Prepare the cadence call. (See Energy Outlet: Cadence Call in this lesson.) Write each of the five lines of the cadence call on separate pieces of posterboard, or computer banners, and post them around the room to prompt students. Practice until you know the words and rhythm.

- Make a huge prayer clock on the floor or sidewalk. Label divisions with index cards.
- Note to Canadian children’s ministry teams: adjust copy to reflect Canadian military customs.

***POWER* of Worship**

Welcome

Truth Conductor: (Modified U.S. Army Pledge of Allegiance)

Welcome students to Basic Training. Explain that for the next three services they will be learning how to fight and to overcome the enemy of their souls. Teach the *POWER* line. Every time you salute the class, they return the salute and say, **I’m in the Lord’s Army. Yes, sir!** Lead them in the Lord’s Army pledge of allegiance as they face the flags.

We pledge to support and defend souls against the enemy using prayer and the Word of God as our weapons of warfare. We bear true faith and allegiance to one God and obey His orders.

Introductory Skit: Buddy Bubba Gets Ready to Fight

These skits use Buddy Bubba, just out of high school and full of enthusiasm, as the main character. Buddy Bubba shows up for class with a trashcan lid as a shield and a silver colander on his head. He is carrying a broom and singing an off-key version of “I’m in the Lord’s Army.”

Buddy Bubba (to the students): **Everybody freeze! I'm in charge here, and I'm going to whip you into shape. We've got to take care of business—God's business. You there, sit up straight!**

Teacher: **Whoa! Buddy Bubba? Is that you under that hat? What has gotten into you? What are you trying to do?**

Buddy Bubba: **I'm getting an army for the Lord. Hup, two, three**

Teacher: **Well, that's interesting. Did you know that the Lord already has an army?**

Buddy Bubba: **No! Really?**

Teacher: **Uh-huh. It's pretty big and pretty wonderful. We have a branch right here in this church. Would you like to join?**

Buddy Bubba: **I sure would. I want to join God's Army. I will be the best soldier ever.**

Teacher: **There are a few requirements. Have you repented of your sins?**

Buddy Bubba: **I've already done that. When I was eight, I prayed and I asked Jesus to forgive me of my sins. Then I asked Him to come into my heart.**

Teacher: **That's a good start, but you're not a baby anymore. Have you been baptized in Jesus' name?**

Buddy Bubba: **Yep, when I was a baby I got baptized. My momma says I cried and cried when they sprinkled that water on me. I don't really like to get wet, you know.**

Teacher: **That's not how the Bible says we are to be baptized. Do you have the Holy Ghost? Did you speak in other tongues after you repented?**

Buddy Bubba: **I can count to five in Spanish.**

Teacher: **Hmmmm . . . all the way to five? That's nice, but that's not receiving the Holy Ghost.**

Buddy Bubba: **Oh, I have just got to be in the Lord's Army so that I can get big muscles!** Flexes his arm.

Teacher: **You don't have to have muscles to be in the Lord's Army, although serving God will make you strong.**

Buddy Bubba: **Strong? My momma says I smell strong—something to do with me not liking to get wet, I think.**

Teacher: **"Be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might" is what the Bible says. The more you study the Bible and pray, the stronger you will become. But first, you need to be baptized in Jesus' name and receive the Holy Ghost. Then you will be in the Lord's Army.** Sends him out of the room with a prayer warrior.

Energy Outlet: Cadence Call

Soldiers in the army spend a lot of time marching. As they march they do a sing-song chant called cadence that helps them keep in step and makes marching easier. Let's learn a cadence march for the Lord's Army. This keeps us together and peppy for the long haul! Go over the words to the cadence call until students are familiar with the rhythm and words. Start marching and clapping. Children yell out the letters from the posters or computer banners posted around the room.

V.I.C.T.O.R.Y.—That's the Christian's battle cry!

S.O.L.D.I.E.R.—That's what the Bible says we are!

F.R.E.E.D.O.M.—Jesus died so we would win!

A.C.T.S 2:38.—This is one that is so great!

Sound off! (Sound off!) **A.C.T.S.** (big breath) **2:38!**

Make sure children know what Acts 2:38 is. Salute children to elicit the *POWER* line: **I'm in the Lord's Army. Yes, sir!**

Prayer (4-6 minutes)

Truth Conductor—OJT

Soldiers in the army get training for different jobs. It's called on-the-job training. Some learn to drive a tank; others learn to fix the tanks. Some soldiers are trained to use radios to communicate with the army in the field. Some learn how to cook. All soldiers are trained to fight.

In the Lord’s Army, we learn how to do a lot of different jobs, too. What are some jobs that people in the Lord’s Army do? (pastor, teacher, janitor, etc.).
Everybody doesn’t do the same thing, but we all learn to pray. Prayer is our greatest weapon. Show the OJT jar. **This is our on-the-job training jar. We are learning how to pray.**

Let each child reach in the OJT jar and get a prayer line. Use these slips of paper for a time of cooperative prayer, with each child reading his line and then adding a thought of his own. For example, the student reads the slip, “Show me how to be a good neighbor.” Then he adds, “And help me be a good neighbor to Mrs. Bossy next door.” Explain to the students what they are to do. Before beginning the cooperative prayer, you say this rhyme:

When you pray, day by day, here are some things that you can say:

Dear God, . . . (Let the first student begin reading his slip.)

After everyone has participated, collect the slips for next week’s prayer time.

Offering (3-5 minutes)

Target Practice—Joyful Noise Offering

Place a large metal pot on an upside-down metal cake pan in the center of the room. Students make as much noise as possible throwing change into the pot to make a “joyful noise to the Lord” in their offering to Him. (Do this for all three services. The children will bring change in anticipation of the noise offering.) **Bring lots of change next time to “make a joyful noise unto the Lord” again!**

Well done, soldiers! Salute the children to elicit the *POWER* line: **I'm in the Lord's Army! Yes, sir!**

Energy Outlet—What Did He Just Say?

See if you can figure out what this message means. Read the paragraph to the children.

“I have to leave ASAP. We have a PFT at O-Dark-Thirty and a JOB after PT, so I need to get my gear squared away. I'm the NCOIC and I have a meeting with the CO and XO about an MP who went UA. After my meeting, the troops need to field day the barracks for the BLT next month. I need to stop off at the PX and pick up a set of hashmarks. See you around 1800.”

A foreign language? No, military lingo and abbreviations. Try some and you can feel “squared away.”

Use the prepared index cards for this activity. As you give each child a card, read the abbreviation and its meaning so that all the students can hear you. For example, **Anne, the letters AD mean active duty. Bill, ASAP means as soon as possible.** All the children hear the phrases, but will they remember?

Students should hold the cards with the abbreviations facing outward so the other children can see the abbreviations but not the definitions. At the signal, everyone mingles, asking other children what his abbreviation means. The child who remembers the correct meaning collects the index card. The child without a card sits down. When

children have related all the terms they can remember, the winner is the person holding the most cards.

Well done, soldiers! Salute children for the *POWER* line: **I'm in the Lord's Army. Yes, sir!**

POWER of the Word

Energy Outlet—Daily Calisthenics

Bible Memorization (8-10 minutes)

“Be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might” (Ephesians 6:10).

Soldiers do PT (physical training) every day, rain or shine. Reading the Bible every day strengthens us and sharpens our fighting skills. The Word of God is called a sword. When we memorize Scripture, we have a mighty weapon to use against the devil.

Point out the words on the board. Go over the verse until the children can say it. Then lead children in twelve jumping jacks, one for every word of the verse.

Well done, soldiers. Salute students for the *POWER* line: **I'm in the Lord's Army. Yes, sir!**

Praise Generators (4-6 minutes)

Sing “Onward Christian Soldiers,” “Battle Hymn of the Republic,” or “I’m in the Lord’s Army” as students march around the room. Explain that when the DS (drill sergeant) yells, “Repent,” everyone turns about face and marches the other way. **When we repent, we turn away from our sins and go in a different direction.**

Sermon (10-12 minutes)

Did you know that all U.S. Army soldiers have to go through Basic Training? That's eight weeks of amazingly difficult physical and mental training. It is tough, but the men and women who make it are some of the best soldiers in the world.

Basic Training is the program that turns regular people into soldiers. Drill sergeants (DSs) look for individuals who show character, endurance, and teamwork in the face of physical exhaustion and hard discipline.

Basic Training is broken down into three phases, Red, White, and Blue. The Red Phase runs from Week I–Week III. Recruits are introduced to their drill sergeants who frown and never laugh. The DS doesn't let anyone skip any rules or steps. The recruits have to follow commands to the letter or do fifty push-ups, run an extra mile, or enjoy some KP (Kitchen Patrol), peeling 800 potatoes or washing nasty, horrible pots.

The Red Phase teaches the soldier how to make beds the army way, wear uniforms properly, clean barracks and lockers perfectly, and maintain a rifle and ammunition. Physical training includes a daily two-mile run, one hundred push-ups, one hundred sit-ups, and midnight hikes carrying all sixty-two pounds of equipment. Inspections can happen at any moment and the soldier must be ready.

How is that like the Lord's Army? Well, kids and adults who stick with the church become some of the best prayer soldiers in the world.

Basic Prayer Training can be broken down into three phases, too. Our Red Phase might include learning to follow all the steps to successful prayer. We start by

praising God and asking forgiveness for anything that's hanging around in our hearts. That's called repenting. When your heart is clean, you can ask God for the things you need and also to help your family and friends. You can ask for the Holy Ghost. Is there anyone here who needs to repent and wants to receive the Holy Ghost? Stand up and join the Lord's Army today!

Invitation and Prayer (5-7 minutes)

Let's all gather around the altar and ask God to help us become prayer warriors. First we're going to praise God; then, on my signal, you can ask for forgiveness as you repent of your sins. When your heart is clean, lift your faces and arms high and ask God to give you the Holy Ghost.

Review

A great review for all three lessons can be made with tape on a carpeted area. Mask out the round Prayer Clock as big as possible. This can also be done with sidewalk chalk outside. To label each division, tape down an index card with the designation. If possible add colorful art for clues.

1. Praise
2. Forgiveness
3. Confession/Repentance
4. Petition/Things We Need
5. Praying for Others
6. Reading the Bible

7. Thinking about What I've Just Read

8. Thanksgiving

9. Praying the Word (Scriptures)

10. Singing

11. Listening for God

12. Praise

The DS, or teacher, explains the different parts of prayer and then calls out a section. Students jump into that section before the DS blows the whistle. (Yes, it's supposed to be difficult, fun, and wild.) If a student cannot get into that section before the whistle blows, he is out.

Children's Prayer Revival—2006

I'm in the Lord's Army

Service 2—White Phase of Basic Prayer Training

Aim: To learn that we are fighting a spiritual battle.

Scripture Text: II Corinthians 10:3-5

Key Verse: “Be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might” (Ephesians 6:10).

POWER line: I'm in the Lord's Army. Yes, sir!

Supplies

- national flag and Christian flag
- large metal pot set upside down on a metal cake pan
- OJT jar and prayer slips
- obstacle course items (See Energy Outlet for suggestions.)
- prizes for obstacle course activity
- camera
- water or juice
- masking tape or sidewalk chalk
- posterboard or banners with cadence call
- songs on posterboard or flip chart
- “instruments” to use for Spirit Generator
- copy of Buddy Bubba's skit
- Buddy Bubba's uniform: strainer, garbage can lid, and broom
- camouflage uniforms

Getting Ready

- Ask an adult quartet or trio to sing “Onward Christian Soldiers.” If you have a trumpeter, that is even better. Run copies of the verses for the students.
- Ask someone dressed in military uniform to relate the information about Sydney Radley-Walters. Additional information about the German tiger tank can be found at *tiger-tank.com*.
- Set up an obstacle course, outdoors if possible.
- Make a copy of the skit for Buddy Bubba.
- Write the words to the songs for this service on posterboard or flip chart.

***POWER* of Worship**

Welcome (8-10 minutes)

Salute children. Remind them of the *POWER* line: **I’m in the Lord’s Army.**

We are in the Lord’s Army. That means we have to fight in a war—not a war with guns and bombs, but a spiritual war. We need to know how our enemy fights. Who is our enemy? Let children respond. **How do we fight him?** With prayer and the Word of God.

Sydney Radley-Walters

In World War II, the Allied Forces made a surprise attack on the coast of Normandy France. Many armies came together to liberate Europe from Hitler’s army.

One of Germany’s main weapons was the “Tiger” tank. It weighed fifty-six tons, more than twice the size of the Sherman, which was the main tank of the

Allies. Although it seemed indestructible at first, some Canadian tank men came up with a plan to knock it out of commission.

Sydney Radley-Walters, a twenty-four-year-old Canadian who commanded a squadron of fifteen Sherman tanks, gave this description:

“If you hit it on this big heavy gun mount . . . it just bounces off. But . . . the armour on the driver and on . . . the co-driver’s [side] . . . see how thin it is in here. Now if you can . . . hit on the lower side of this gun mount, . . . which gives you a target of about four or five feet wide. . . . The round cannot bounce off, it must bounce down. And when it bounces down, what does it do? It smashes this weak armour . . . here over the driver and the co-driver and in most cases, we found out that . . . the tank is automatically knocked out. . . . if you can’t get your first one, [if you can get] your second round in from here down to the bottom, . . . you could destroy a tank, with a 75 mm., at up to eight, nine hundred yards head on. . . .”

(www.valourandhorror.com/DB/PERSON/Walters_GM_Tanks.php; accessed July 7, 2006).

According to *valourandhorror.com*, the area described is about six inches in diameter. The method has been called a “one-in-a-million” shot. Radley-Walters knocked out nineteen German tanks, the best record of any Canadian. He won the Distinguished Service Order and the Military Cross for taking out the German tanks, and he later became a Brigadier General in the Canadian army.

Why is it important to know about your enemies' weapons? Let students respond. **What are some of the weapons of our enemy? What are our weapons?**

Today we begin the White Phase II of Basic Prayer Training. Let's start with our battle cry.

Energy Outlet: Cadence Call

Children yell out the cadence as posted on the posterboard or computer banners.

V.I.C.T.O.R.Y.—That's the Christian's battle cry!

S.O.L.D.I.E.R.—That's what the Bible says we are!

F.R.E.E.D.O.M.—Jesus died so we would win!

A.C.T.S 2:38.—This is one that is so great!

Sound off! (Sound off!) **A.C.T.S.** (big breath) **2:38!**

Well done, soldiers! Salute children to elicit *POWER* line. **I'm in the Lord's Army. Yes, sir!**

Skit: Brother Buddy Bubba Is Dangerous

Teacher: **Remember our verse from last week? "Be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might"?**

(Buddy Bubba comes racing in with his broom and starts whacking at invisible mice on the floor, disrupting the lesson.)

Teacher: **Stop! Buddy Bubba, what are you doing?**

Buddy Bubba: **I'm being strong in the Lord. I just got baptized in Jesus' name and received the Holy Ghost. Pastor said I would receive power. I'm ready to start using it.** (whacks at more mice)

Teacher: **Buddy Bubba, you have received spiritual power, not broom power!**

Buddy Bubba (disappointed): **I'm not going to become big and powerful and handsome?**

Teacher: **Handsome? No, you don't understand. God gives you His strength. When the Holy Ghost lives inside you, God gives you the ability to do more for Him. The more you study the Bible and pray, the stronger spiritually you will become. I don't know if you are ever going to become handsome.**

Buddy Bubba: **Where is the lion I have to fight?** (looks under the tables, in the closets, ready to whack it with his broom)

Teacher: **The lion? Oh, the devil as a roaring lion?**

Buddy Bubba: **That's the one.**

Teacher: **That's a way of saying that the devil will try to trick you into running away from the Lord's Army. If a real lion ever gets you outside of the camp, you will be**

all alone and he can eat you. But if you stay in the Lord's Army, in His camp (the church), you'll be safe from sneaky, tricky lions.

Buddy Bubba: **Oooooohhhh. So I don't have to fight with my broom?**

Teacher: **Nope. Leave the broom and go get your Bible. That's a real weapon in spiritual warfare.**

Truth Conductor: Pledge of Allegiance

Lead children in the Lord's Army pledge of allegiance.

We pledge to support and defend souls against the enemy using prayer and the Word of God as our weapons of warfare. We bear true faith and allegiance to one God and obey His orders.

Praise Generators (4-6 minutes)

Sing worship songs as children march: "I'm in The Lord's Army," "Victory Is Mine," and "There Is Power in the Blood." Remind students to do an about-face when the DS yells, "Repent!"

Prayer (4-6 minutes)

Truth Conductor—OJT

Let each child reach into the OJT jar and get a prayer line. (Another option is to let the students write their own suggestions and add them to the jar.) **This is on-the-job training. We are learning how to pray by using these suggestions.**

Before you start the cooperative prayer, with each child reading a line and then adding a statement of his own, say this rhyme:

When you pray, day by day, here are some things that you can say:

Dear God, . . .

Let each child say the line on his prayer slip then add a comment of his own. (See the instructions for Service 1 for further explanation.)

Well done, soldiers! Salute students to elicit *POWer* line. **I'm in the Lord's Army. Yes, sir!**

Offering (3-5 minutes)

Target Practice—Joyful Noise Offering

Place a large metal pot on an upside-down metal cake pan in the center of the room. Kids make as much noise as possible throwing change into the pot to make a joyful noise unto the Lord in their offering to Him. **Don't forget your change next time. Let's make the biggest joyful noise unto the Lord that's ever been made!**

Energy Outlet: Obstacle Course Game

A soldier in the army must run through obstacle courses designed to test his ability to run around, crawl under, jump over, and climb. He is timed in his efforts and must complete the course before he can pass Basic Training.

In the Lord's Army sometimes we face obstacles or things that we have to get over or deal with. The obstacles we face may be feelings, problems, hard times, or sad times. What are some problems we might have to face? Let children respond.

With prayer and the Word of God, our weapons of spiritual warfare, we can overcome any obstacle in our way.

Go outside, if possible, or somewhere with plenty of room and set up an obstacle course. Allow plenty of time for kids to race each other and earn prizes. Take lots of pictures to share with parents.

Explain the spiritual parallel of each obstacle.

- Angry thoughts: Hula hoops taped together in rings to jump over
- Prejudice: Limbo sticks to shimmy under
- Hard work: Jump ropes to jump
- Health problems: Eggs to carry on a spoon
- Transportation problems: Potato or trash sacks to jump in
- Long waiting: Tunnels—refrigerator boxes on their sides
- Bullies: Targets (large bulls-eyes) to shoot at with pop-cap or water guns
- Fox holes of prayer: spots where students can dig

After students have run the obstacle course, offer water or juice for refreshment.

Well done, soldiers! Salute children for *POWER* line. **I'm in the Lord's Army. Yes, sir!**

***POWER* of the Word**

Energy Outlet—Daily Calisthenics

Bible Memorization (8-10 minutes)

“Be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might” (Ephesians 6:10).

Ask the children to do twelve toe touches while they rehearse the verse under the direction of a DS (drill sergeant).

Spirit Generator (2-3 minutes)

Sing “Onward Christian Soldiers.” Ask an adult quartet or trio to come in and sing the song with flair and a fast tempo. If you have a trumpeter, ask him to play the song. Display the words so students can follow along. Ask the children to join in the song, marching around the room with their own fun instruments like drums and bells to shake it up. (Use beans in coffee cans—be creative!)

Sermon (10-12 minutes)

The White Phase of a new army recruit’s Basic Training lasts for Weeks IV–VI. This is known as the “Gunfighter Phase.”

Week IV takes the recruits to the firing ranges where they learn to handle the M16A2 rifle, shooting at a variety of moving, pop-up, and long-range targets.

Week V increases the demands of marksmanship, and everyone practices automatic fire and night firing. Soldiers have to hit at least seventeen out of forty targets to pass as a “Marksman,” but a strike rate of more than twenty-four will earn a “Sharpshooter” badge.

You would be surprised at how many different ranges one Army post has. Everyone must run the obstacle course carrying his new friend, the M16A2 rifle. With live machine gun fire spraying over their heads, soldiers, wearing heavy backpacks, learn to climb walls and crawl through barbed wire.

If you look at II Corinthians 10:3-5, you can see the White Phase of learning to be a great prayer warrior.

“For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (for the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ” (II Corinthians 10:3-5).

We are learning about the targets—things to shoot down—in the devil’s battlefield, just as Major Sydney Radley-Walters learned the vulnerable part of the German Tiger tanks. These are things to remember:

- 1. Physical strength will not help us.**
- 2. Our weapons through God are mighty—the ammunition of prayer.**
- 3. Evil imaginations and people who think they are smarter than God are dangerous.**
- 4. Thoughts can be powerful. When we give them to God, He makes them powerful tools of prayer to help instead of powerful landmines to destroy us.**

U.S. Army recruits are taught the principles of camouflage, concealment, and decoy (CCD) to increase their survivability on the battlefield. Soldiers dig their own foxholes. If possible, they should dig a hole that is shoulder-deep when standing up. In the Lord’s Army, we don’t dig foxholes; we dig prayer holes in our busy schedules. The bigger and deeper the hole, the more we are protected from the fiery darts of the enemy.

Invitation and Prayer (5-? minutes)

Pick a Battle Buddy for the Lord’s Army and gather around the altar to ask God to help us become prayer warriors.

First, we're going to praise God. Then, on my signal, ask for forgiveness and repent of your sins. Then when your heart is clean, lift your faces and arms high and ask the Lord for the Holy Ghost. If you already have the Holy Ghost, pray with someone near you to receive the Holy Ghost.

Review

Use the Prayer Clock from Service 1. Explain each division again. Show children how they can pray in five-minute segments.

Children's Prayer Revival—2006

I'm in the Lord's Army

Service 3—Blue Phase of Basic Prayer Training

Aim: To learn to use the whole armor of God.

Scripture Text: Ephesians 6:10-17

Key Verse: “Be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might” (Ephesians 6:10).

POWER line: I'm in the Lord's Army. Yes, sir!

Supplies

- boots, vest, shield (garbage can lid), tool belt, helmet or hat, sword (toy sword or rolled up newspaper)
- large metal pot set upside down on a metal cake pan
- OJT jar
- masking tape or sidewalk chalk
- posterboard or banners of cadence call
- copy of Buddy Bubba's script
- candy for the Bible memorization
- Christian armor flashcards
- pushpins or tape

Getting Ready

- Make a copy of the skit for Buddy Bubba.
- Write the words to the songs for this service on posterboard or a flip chart.
- Write the Bible verse on the board.

- Make flashcards that list each piece of a Christian's armor: truth, righteousness, gospel, faith, salvation, Word of God.

***POWER* of Worship**

Welcome (8-10 minutes)

Salute children. Remind them of the *POWER* line. **I'm in the Lord's Army. Yes, sir!** Repeat the Lord's Army pledge of allegiance.

We pledge to support and defend souls against the enemy using prayer and the Word of God as our weapons of warfare. We bear true faith and allegiance to one God and obey His orders.

This is our final phase of Basic Prayer Training! If you graduate, you can go on to Spiritual Occupational Specialty Training, working with soldiers in the Lord's Army in your area of interest. Will you choose teaching, music, pastoring, Bible studies, children's ministry, church finances, or outreach? It may be too soon to know, or you may have a pretty good idea what kind of job you would do well in our church.

Skit: Buddy Bubba Puts on the Armor of God

Buddy Bubba shows up for class with a trashcan lid as a shield, a silver colander on his head, and a broom, singing an off-key version of "I'm in the Lord's Army."

Teacher: **Well, Buddy. You've repented, you've received the Holy Ghost, and last week you got baptized in Jesus' name. You are truly in the Lord's Army. So why are you still wearing your strainer in your head?**

Buddy Bubba: **It's my helmet of salvation. This is my shield of faith** (blocks a few imaginary arrows), **and this is my sword of the Spirit** (holds his broom like a rifle).

Teacher: **You are the most interesting soldier that I have ever seen.**

Buddy Bubba: **Thank you.**

Teacher: **But where is your breastplate of righteousness to protect your heart? Are your feet covered with the preparation of the gospel of peace? Why don't you have on the girdle of truth?**

Buddy Bubba: **Oh, (giggle) I can't wear a girdle.**

Teacher: **You don't understand. I'm talking about a big leather belt, like a tool belt. It protects your sides and hips.**

Buddy Bubba: **Oooohhhh. Why do I need to protect my feet?**

Teacher: **Ssssnakes.**

Buddy Bubba: (starts to dance) **Oh, no! I really do need the *whole* armor of God.**

Teacher: **Yes, Jesus has provided a very special armor to protect you as you fight against the enemy, Satan. Jesus paid for it on Calvary.**

Buddy Bubba: **I'm in the Lord's Army. Yes, sir! I mean, ma'am** (to one of the ladies or girls). **I've got to go get myself squared away!**

Cadence Call

Let's do some marching and cadence. Students yell out the letters on the posterboard or computer banners posted around the room.

V.I.C.T.O.R.Y.—That's the Christian's battle cry!

S.O.L.D.I.E.R.—That's what the Bible says we are!

F.R.E.E.D.O.M.—Jesus died so we would win!

A.C.T.S 2:38.—This is one that is so great!

Sound off! (Sound off!) **A.C.T.S.** (big breath) **2:38!**

Well done, soldiers! Salute students for the *POWER* line: **"I'm in the Lord's Army. Yes, sir!"**

Praise Generators (4-6 minutes)

Try this echo praise. The teacher starts out and the students echo and imitate actions.

I am a Christian (I am a Christian) *point to self*

A mighty, mighty Christian (A mighty, mighty Christian) *flex arms and show muscles*

I am a Christian (I am a Christian)

A mighty, mighty Christian (A mighty, mighty Christian)

Got my shield of faith (Got my shield of faith) *swing arm in front of you, like holding a shield*

Breastplate of righteousness (Breastplate of righteousness) *use fingers to outline a breastplate on chest*

Sword of the Spirit (Sword of the Spirit) *use your arm like a sword and pull it out from other hand*

My legs are covered by truth (my legs are covered by truth) *place fists on each hip, one by one*

Helmet of salvation (Helmet of salvation) *wave hands over your head*

Got my gospel shoes on (gospel shoes on) *kick feet out in front of you and point to toes*

And above all (and above all) *starting at feet, make bubbling motion all the way up above your head*

And above all (and above all)

I said above all (I said above all)

I'm dressed in the whole armor of God! (I'm dressed in the whole armor of God!)

(Together) **We're dressed in the whole armor of God!**

Well done, soldiers. Salute children for the *POWER* line. **I'm in the Lord's**

Army. Yes, sir!

Prayer (4-6 minutes)

Truth Conductor—OJT

Ask each child to reach into the OJT jar and get a prayer line. Before you start the cooperative prayer, with each child reading a line and then adding a statement, say this rhyme:

When you pray, day by day, here are some things that you can say:

Dear God,

Offering (3-5 minutes)

Target Practice—Joyful Noise Offering

Place a large metal pot on an upside-down metal cake pan in the center of the room. **Let's make a gigantic joyful noise unto the Lord.** Let children throw their offering into the pan.

Praise Exercises

Play The Bible Says game. This is a variation of Simon Says, but the instructions must be biblical commands or exhortations. Example: The Bible says make a joyful noise. The Bible says clap your hands all ye people. Touch your toes. (Nope.) The Bible says shout with a voice of triumph!

POWer of the Word

Energy Outlet—Daily Calisthenics (8-10 minutes)

Bible Memorization

“Be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might” (Ephesians 6:10).

Ask for volunteers. Anyone who says the verse gets a piece of candy. Visitors will quickly memorize the verse by listening to others recite it.

Children do knee to elbow touches or arm circles while repeating the verse under the direction of a DS (drill sergeant).

Well done, soldiers! Salute children for *POWer* line: **I'm in the Lord's Army!**

Yes, sir!

Sermon (10-12 minutes)

Pile the “armor” you brought to class nearby and ask a volunteer to come to the front to be suited up. As each piece of armor is mentioned, put it on the volunteer. Pass out the flashcards.

This is the Blue Phase of Basic Prayer Training. Let’s start by looking at our DOs, or daily orders. These orders come from the Book of Ephesians. Read dramatically and powerfully.

“Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

“For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

“Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

“Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness.

“And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

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

“And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.”

Those are our orders.

When we are soldiers in the Lord's Army, we fight spiritual battles. We do not fight people or other churches. Who is our enemy? What does he want to do to us?

If you have ever seen the devil raise your hand. Hopefully no one has ever seen the devil. **So how do we fight against someone we cannot see? Certainly not with our fists and guns.**

This is a spiritual battle. Our enemy and our weapons are invisible. But it is a real fight.

The battle that we read about in the Book of Ephesians compares our weapons to a soldier's armor in Bible days.

Place the tool belt on your volunteer. **A wide, thick belt (sometimes called a girdle) circled the soldier's waist and rested on his hips. It protected that tender area between the ribs and the hips.**

The belt the Christian soldier wears is truth. Ask the child with the truth flashcard to bring it to the front and stick it on the wall (use pushpins or tape). **Always obey the truth in God's Word. Always tell the truth. Lies, dishonesty, and cheating hurt. Truth protects us.**

Place the vest on the volunteer. **The breastplate protected the soldier's heart and lungs from the enemy's arrows and swords. What do policemen wear to protect their hearts and lungs? Bulletproof vests.**

Call for the righteousness flashcard to be posted. **Righteousness is simply doing what is right. It is having your heart (your feelings) right with God.**

Ask the volunteer to put on the boots. **It is important for a soldier to have the right footwear. Soldiers have to wear good shoes so they can march for miles and miles. To fall in battle might mean death.** Call for the gospel flashcard.

Our spiritual shoes keep us prepared to take the gospel to others. What is the gospel? It is the good news that Jesus died, was buried, and rose again to save us from sin.

Our spiritual shoes allow us to stand for what is right. They keep us from falling into sin and being wounded by the devil.

Give the volunteer the garbage can lid to hold. **The shield can be moved around to catch the darts and arrows the soldiers threw at one another. It also warded off blows of swords and spears.** Call for the faith flashcard.

Faith protects us from the fiery darts the enemy throws at us. Whatever happens, we can have faith that God will take care of us. Even in bad times, we are okay because we know that God is in control. No matter what happens to you, trust God. He will take care of you.

Place the helmet on the volunteer. The soldier's helmet protects his brain. Call for the salvation flashcard. **Salvation protects our minds. What is the plan of salvation?** Ask students to quote Acts 2:38. **Knowing that you have obeyed the plan of salvation protects your mind from doubt and fear.**

Give the volunteer the sword. **The sword was the only weapon the soldier had to fight the enemy. All the rest of the armor was for his protection.** Call for the Word of God flashcard. **The Word of God is all we need to defeat the devil. When he tries**

to get us to sin, we can quote the Word of God. It is important to memorize God's Word. You never know when you will need to use the sword against the devil.

Invitation and Prayer (5-? minutes)

The Lord has provided all the protection and weapons we need to fight a spiritual battle. We are fully equipped to win.

Are you in the Lord's Army?

Have you repented and been baptized in Jesus' name? Have you received the Holy Ghost? Do you have the whole armor of God—truth, righteousness, the gospel, faith, salvation, and the Word of God? Are you wearing it every day?

If you want to be in the Lord's Army, gather around the altar. We're going to praise God; then, on my signal, ask for forgiveness and repent of your sins. When your heart is clean, lift your face and arms high and ask God for the Holy Ghost. If you already have the Holy Ghost, ask the Lord for a refreshing or pray with someone near you.

Review

Let students try on the "armor" and name each piece.

Use the Prayer Clock described in Service 1. Go over each section again. Call out different prayer situations. See if children can determine which prayer section the situation falls under (e.g., I stole a cookie—forgiveness. I am so thankful for my family—thanksgiving).