

The Connection

Messages of Hope



HOPE
CHURCH | RALEIGH
WORSHIP. GROW. SERVE.

A Weekly Online Newsletter: Edition 684

June 22, 2022

“How Does it Work?”

“Mom! Come look at my cool armor! I am a soldier for God!!” He strutted around the room trying to look big and strong! His mom came into the room to see. “I got this at Kingdom Chronicles at church. Look out devil! I’m coming after you!!” He swayed his cardboard sword through the air and held up his shield. Mom smiled as she contemplated this learning moment for her son. She enjoyed his excitement, but also wanted to provide the gentle correction he needed about the armor of God.

“Son, do you think God’s word says that this armor is for seeking out the enemy to defeat him?” Mom asked.

“Yes, I am soldier and I’m gonna help God defeat the devil. He has some wiles that he tries to use on us. I’m gonna beat him before he uses his wiles on me!”

“Tell me what you know about the devil, son.” Mom posed the question to get him thinking about Ephesians 6:11-18. She was interested to find out what he knew. He replied, “The devil used to be an angel in heaven. He wanted to take God’s place in heaven, but God threw him out before he could take over. A bunch of other angels went with him because they were on his side.” Mom nodded, “Yes, that is true.” He continued, “On earth, the devil tries to use his wiles to mess us up.” Mom asked, “What are wiles?” The boy paused as if this was a question he had, but never asked. “I think it’s a weapon of some kind.” Mom picked up her Bible and opened it to Ephesians. “Let’s read in the Bible about the devil and his wiles.” She read:

“Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes (wiles) of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.” (Verses 11-12)

Mom asked the boy what he heard in these verses. “The Armor of God is for fighting the devil so he doesn’t use his wiles on me!” “Correct, but have you ever seen the devil with your eyes?” Mom inquired. “No, except on Halloween, but those are just people dressed up, right?” Mom nodded. “Mom, what are powers and world forces and spiritual forces?” Mom answered, “The devil and his demons are of the spiritual realm. We can’t see them, angels included. So that means to defend ourselves against the devil’s wiles, we have to have spiritual weapons. What do think about that?”

The boy was remembering something he heard at Kingdom Chronicles. “My teacher said that the armor had different jobs. I remember she said the helmet of salvation. What does a helmet have to do with salvation?” “Excellent question!” Mom replied. “Salvation is believing in Jesus as your Lord and Savior, right!” The boy nodded emphatically, “I believe that Jesus saved me from my sins! How is that a weapon?” Mom shared, “The devil cannot take God’s children away from Him, but he can use his wiles. For example, remember when you told me a fib about finishing your homework?” The boy nodded. “The devil likes to make God’s children consider doing bad things. You made the choice to tell a lie. The devil tries to deceive you and tell you lies to make you forget that you are loved by God, and that you have agreed to live by God’s rules.”

“I know what you mean, Mom. Yesterday, I thought about taking an extra ice cream at lunch. I felt a bad feeling in my tummy when I thought about it so I decided not to do it. Was that the devil trying to wile me?”

Smiling, Mom said, “He was tempting you to make a wrong decision. That funny feeling in your tummy was the Holy Spirit reminding you that you are a child of God who follows God’s rules. You beat the devil when you decided to do the right thing!”

“Woo Hoo!! I beat the devil! Oh, I see, the helmet of salvation isn’t a real helmet like this one. It’s the truth about me being God’s child and I decided to follow God’s rules!” The boy was smiling from ear to ear.

“Let’s read more in the Bible to see what the rest of the armor does.” Mom read:

“Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand firm therefore, HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH, and HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, and having shod YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE; in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. And take THE HELMET OF SALVATION, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.” (Verses 13-17)

“Son, what do the other pieces of armor do?” Mom asked.

“Let’s see, what does girded mean?” Mom replied, “To put around your waist like a belt of truth.” The boy was thinking hard. “The belt of truth and the breastplate of righteousness are for protecting my heart and helping me remember God’s truth. My faith, that’s believing in God, right?” Mom nodded. “My faith gives me strength to stand up for what I believe. How I know what to believe comes from the word of God, the sword. I don’t get what the shoes of peace are, Mom?”

“The shoes of peace tell us to go out in the world with our feet and share about Jesus with others. This is God’s work through us. Listen to the next verses in Ephesians:

“With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints,”

“Wonder why Paul talks about prayer right after he tells about the armor?” Mom asked.

“I am not sure,” said the boy.

“That lamp over there has many parts that make it work. The light bulb, the wires, the shade, and the stand. What does the lamp need in order to shine its light?”

The boys jumped up and turned on the lamp, “Electricity! Do I need electricity to use the Armor of God?”

“I hope not!” Mom laughed. “The armor of God is turned on by prayer! That’s why Paul talks about prayer! Talking to God every day helps to keep our armor strong. When we do make mistakes, we go straight to Him in prayer to talk about it. Does that make sense?”

“Yes, Mom! The armor of God is not real armor that I wear on the outside of me. It’s what I believe about God, and it’s about my relationship with God! Wait, I also get to tell others about the armor. I can use this outside armor to tell them the story!”

Join us in July for Kingdom Chronicles - Learn more about the Armor of God!

Blessings,
Sandra Pierce - Ruling Elder, HOPE Church Raleigh

HOPE Calendar

Wednesday, June 22

NO Wednesday Night Devotion & Prayer Tonight

Thursday, June 23

Worship Team Practice @ 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, June 25

Women of HOPE @ 1:00 p.m.

Sunday, June 26

Worship Team Practice @ 8:15 a.m.

Worship @ 9:30 a.m.

Fellowship Time @ 10:50 a.m.

Sunday school @ 11:10 a.m.

Monday, June 27

Staff Meeting

Wednesday, June 29

Wednesday Night Devotion & Prayer @ 7:00 p.m.



Outreach Ministries

“Food of the Month”

for the Raleigh Dream Center Food Pantry

Pull Top Canned Vegetables

We have a collection bin in the foyer

Meal Ministry

Take a meal from the freezer if needed for you or someone else.

There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board to help prepare meals for others.

See Christina Johnston with questions.

The Computer Lab

Simple Technology Assistant

HELP Wanted

Please go to our website and read the information on serving in The Saturday Computer Lab. There is a form there to fill out if interested. We need 6 to 8 volunteers when we resume in September to fulfill this outreach ministry of HOPE Church Raleigh

Spiritual Growth Ministries

Sunday School

This Sunday for all ages

NO Wednesday Night Devotion & Prayer Tonight

WOMEN of HOPE

Saturday, June 25th

@ 1:00 p.m.

MEN of HOPE

Tuesday, July 19th at 7 p.m.

A ZOOM link for the meeting will be sent out beforehand.

Join us!

Prayer Requests:

Covid -19, Lori Estelle, Mark Drylie, Rohweder Family (Friend of Rich and Diane Williams), Chandi Haswell & family, Ken Guy (Lynn Joyner's brother-in-law), Revill & Mary Lane Mallory, Evelyn Doby, Jamie Baldwin, Donna Williams, Diane Williams, Renee Logan, Loretta (Sandi Underwood's daughter), Joan Summers, Jordan & Cinnamon (son and daughter of Lynn Joyner's family members), Tommy Lanphere (Lynn Joyner's brother), Becky Hale's mom in Wyoming, Gene & Becky Hale, The Baker family, Dave & Dot Geil, Joy Forrest's daughter Haley, Carlyle and Cynthia Franklin (Sandra Pierce's dad and stepmom), Brian Adam's dad, our Military, our Missionaries, our Nation, and the world. If you have those you would like added to our prayer concerns, please email me those names.



Vacation Bible School 2022

*Kingdom Chronicles
Standing Strong in the
Battle for Truth*

Dates:

July 5 - 9

Tuesday - Thursday
7:00 p.m. to 8:45 p.m.

Friday Night cookout @ 6 p.m.

VBS Assembly @ 6:45 p.m.

Saturday Assembly @ 10:00 a.m.

(Adult Class offered too)

Helping Hands Ministries

Fellowship Food - June 26

Church Will Provide

Soundboard - June 26

Dave O'Dell

Communion Steward - June

Sandra Pierce

Greeter - June 26

Volunteer Needed

Volunteer for the Nursery - June 26

Volunteer Needed

This Sunday
Scripture Text and Sermon

Proverbs 1:1 - 7; 26:11 - 12

“The Fool and His Folly”

David Logan Preaching

Daily Devotions

For This Coming Week

Jun 26	Judges	20
Jun 27	Judges	21
Jun 28	Ruth	1
Jun 29	Ruth	2
Jun 30	Ruth	3
Jul 1	Ruth	4
Jul 2	1 Samuel	1

Quote of the Week

“Satan never sets a dish before men that they do not love.”

Thomas Watson

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Worship Time: 9:30 AM

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