

Nurturing Faith... Every Day in Every Way

August 23, 2015

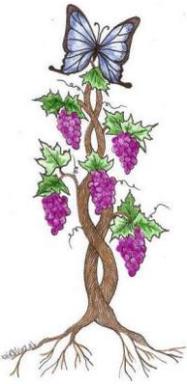
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18

Psalms 34:15-22 (15)

Ephesians 6:10-20

John 6:56-69



God's Protective Gear. Object: Skateboard and some protective gear.

You've just gotten your first skateboard and you are wondering what to do with it. You've seen the skateboarders at the park and on TV, and you have seen all of the cool things they can do, but how do you get started? First, before you try anything crazy, you need to get comfortable just standing on your board. It is best to start out on the grass or some carpet so that the board will not roll until you get the hang of it. After you get comfortable just standing on the board, you are ready to try some skating. Oh wait! I think I have forgotten something. Can you guess what it is? That's right! We need to make sure we have the right protective gear.

The first thing is to make sure you have the right kind of shoes. You wouldn't go skating in a pair of cowboy boots, would you? Your shoes should have a flat bottom to help you get a better grip on the board. Next, every skateboarder should wear a helmet. You might think that wearing a helmet makes you look like a dork, but, believe me, it is the smart thing to do. Another thing you will need is pads. It is important to have pads to protect your elbows and knees. It might also be a good idea to wear braces on your wrists. Now that you have all the right gear, it is time to go skateboarding. Even professional skateboarders make sure they have the right protective equipment. Doesn't it make sense that you should use it too?

Just as we need protective gear in skateboarding, the Bible teaches us that we need protection in life. The Bible calls it the armor of God and it tells us that we need the armor of God to protect us from Satan's evil schemes. What kind of protection does the Bible say that we need?

The belt of truth - Hold on to the truth that Jesus Christ is Lord

The breastplate of righteousness - Choose to do what God says is right

Feet fitted with the gospel of peace - Knowing Jesus brings peace

The shield of faith - Seeds of doubt can never take root if we have faith in Jesus

The helmet of salvation - Jesus came from heaven to earth to save us.

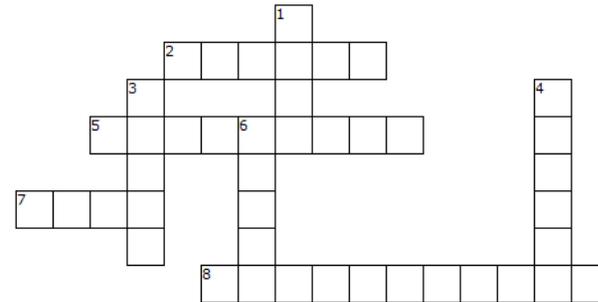
The sword of the Spirit - The Bible, God's Holy Word, it is our powerful weapon.

No skateboarder should ever get on his board without the proper equipment, and you should never try to go through life without the armor of God.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia (John 6:68)

Heavenly Father, thank you for giving us the protection we need to walk safely through our daily life. Help us to make sure we always put on the full armor you have provided. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen. - Used by permission, sermons4kids

Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

- A piece of metal carried to protect the front of the body
- To deliver from the penalty of sin
- A flexible band of leather or cloth, worn around the waist
- A piece of armor that covers the breast

DOWN

- The body parts at the end of the legs
- Trust or confidence in God
- A hard hat that covers and protects the head
- A covering of metal, wood, or leather, worn to protect the body against weapons

FAITH	HELMET	BREASTPLATE	ARMOR
SHIELD	BELT	SALVATION	FEET

BELT OF TRUTH: Give children supplies to make a construction paper belt with strips of paper hanging down and taped to the belt. (Reinforce the belt with postage tape or clear contact paper). Strips of paper will have a Bible verse written on each piece.

BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS: Give children a paper bag and cut out a place for the head and arms to slip into. Decorate the bag with CHOOSE TO DO WHAT GOD SAYS IS RIGHT, etc.

FEET FITTED WITH THE GOSPEL OF PEACE: Provide children with a piece of foam to cut in the shape of their foot and laces to attach to the foam (hole punched) and lace up their ankle and leg.

SHIELD OF FAITH: Provide children with a piece of cardboard to decorate as a shield and tape a handle (strip of wide paper) to the back so the shield can be held in front of child.

HELMET OF SALVATION: Give each child a paper plate to form in the way that they choose, to be a helmet. Color and write HELMET OF SALVATION, etc.

SWORD OF THE SPIRIT: Provide each child with a long strip of poster board and foil to cover the "sword" and Bible stickers to decorate their sword. Give each child another small piece of poster board to form as the handle and color and tape to the sword.



Put on the full armor of God so that you can take
your stand against the devil's schemes.
Ephesians 6:11