

Armed with Prayer

Text: Exodus 17:8-16

Key Verse: “Put on the whole armor of God that you will be able to stand against the wiles of the devil” (Ephesians 6:11).

Activity #1: Sing “His Banner over Me is Love” (by Kevin Prosch, 1991).

Activity #2: Battle Banners

Purchase 8x12 pieces of colored felt. Each child can decorate the fabric and make his very own Battle Banner. Use stickers, draw with permanent markers, and glue felt pieces to create a personalized banner.

Bible Story: Exodus 17:8-16

While the people of God were wandering in the wilderness, the army of Amalek came to Rephidim to fight against the army of Israel. Moses, the leader of the children of Israel, told Joshua to choose men to go out and fight against the people of Amalek. He assured Joshua that he would stand on the top of the hill with the rod of God in his hand. Joshua obeyed Moses and went out to fight with the people of Amalek. Moses took Aaron and Hur to the top of the hill with him. When Moses would hold up his hands, Israel would begin to win the battle. However, when Moses let his hands down, Israel would lose. After a while, Moses’ hands became tired from holding the rod up in the air. Aaron and Hur placed a large rock for Moses to sit on. Then Aaron stood on one side of Moses and held up his hand. On the other side, Hur stood beside Moses and held up the other hand. The men stayed with Moses and supported his hands until the sun went down. That day, Joshua and the soldiers of Israel won the battle against the Amalekites. After the battle was over, God told Moses to write down everything that happened in a book. This book would be read aloud to remind the people that God had given them the victory over their enemies. Moses built an altar. He gave the altar a special name. Moses named it, “Jehovah Nissi” which means “The Lord is our Banner.” This altar would be a special place for people to worship God and to always remember that he gives the victory.

Activity #3: Prayer Journals

Purchase small composition books for students to create a prayer journal. Allow the students to decorate the covers with colored markers and stickers. Ask the children to list important prayer needs in their journals to remind them to pray. Explain to the students that as God answers their requests they should write down specifically how God answered their prayers. Share with them that it is good to read through the journal to remember that God answers prayer.

Discussion / Wrap Up:

What was Moses holding in his hand during the battle? (*He held up the rod of God.*)

What happened when Moses held up the rod of God? (*The army of Israel would win.*)

What happened when Moses let down the rod of God? (*The army of Israel would lose.*)

What did Moses name the altar that he built? (*“Jehovah Nissi” means “The Lord is our Banner.”*)

Who gives us the victory over the devil and his temptations? (*Jesus gives us the victory.*)

Prayer Time: Lead the children in a time of prayer. Be attentive to the needs of each child.

Closing Activity: Sing “His Banner Over Me is Love” or another worship song. Let the children march around the room carrying their banners.