



Put on the Full Armour of God

In Ephesians chapter 6, Paul writes about the armour of God. The people were used to seeing soldiers so would know what they wore for battles. Paul knew that life for a Christian is like a battle, so he told the people to “Put on the full armour of God”. This would help them to fight against Satan just as the soldier’s armour helped them when fighting against their earthly enemies. The people had to be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. This meant trusting God. Paul’s letter is also written for Christians today and can help them as they face the temptations of Satan.





Paul's letter to the Ephesians

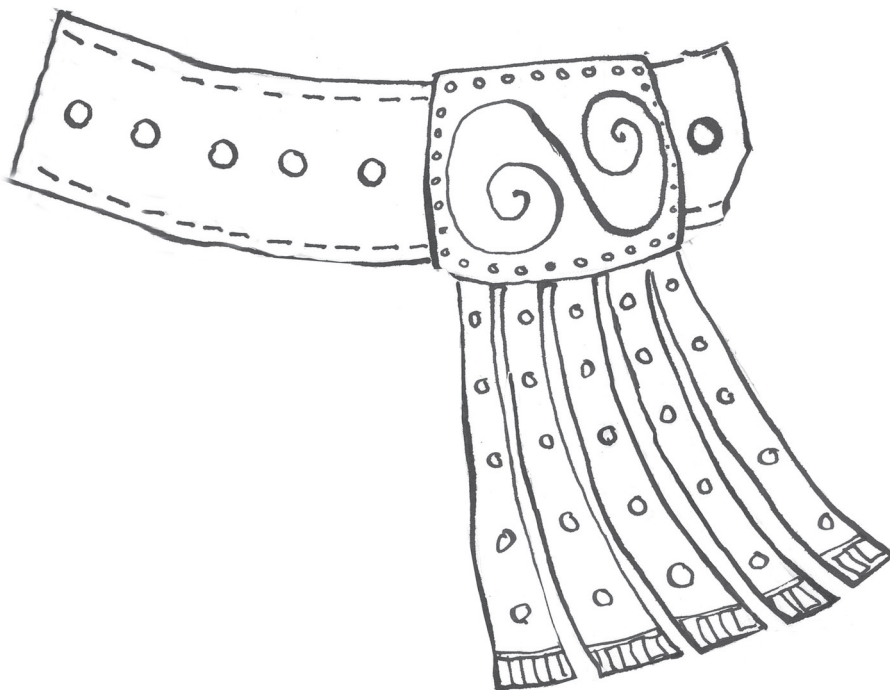
Being a Christian is not always easy. The apostle Paul knew this so he wrote letters to Christians around the world to help them. In these letters he told them to prepare themselves for the difficulties they may face. One of these letters was to the Christians in Ephesus. We can read this letter in our Bibles, It is called Ephesians.





The Belt of Truth

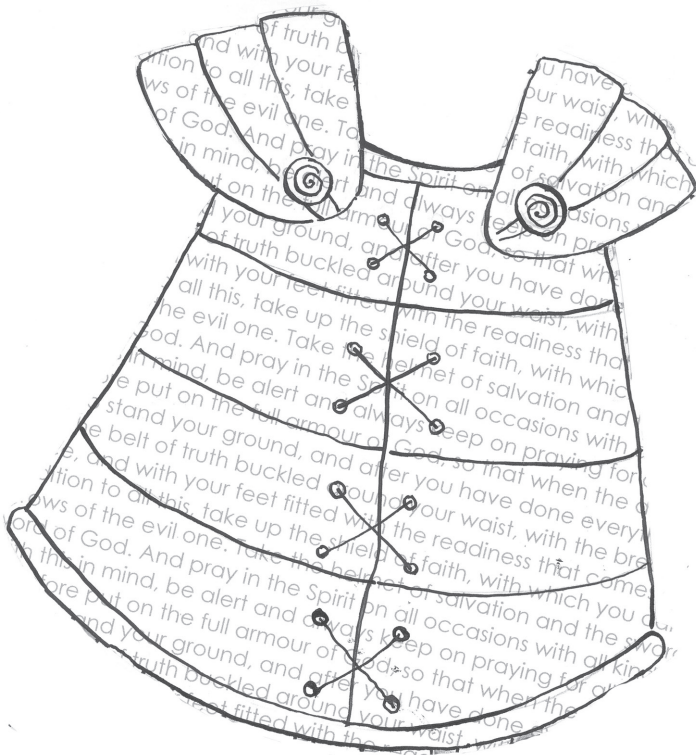
The first piece of the soldier's armour Paul writes about is the Belt of Truth. A belt was used to hold up all the soldier's clothes and so was very important to him. As Christians, it is important that we know the truth. Knowing the truth helps us to keep everything else in our lives in place. It is important that we know the difference between the truth of God and the lies of Satan.





The Breastplate of Righteousness

The breastplate that soldiers wore helped to protect the front of their body - including their hearts. Paul wrote about the Breastplate of Righteousness. Righteousness is about goodness, honesty, purity, honour, integrity and justice. These are all things that Satan does not want people to be. Many parts of the Bible tell us that God is righteous. Psalm 145:17 says that "The Lord is righteous in all his ways and loving toward all he has made". Paul encourages Christians to be righteous.



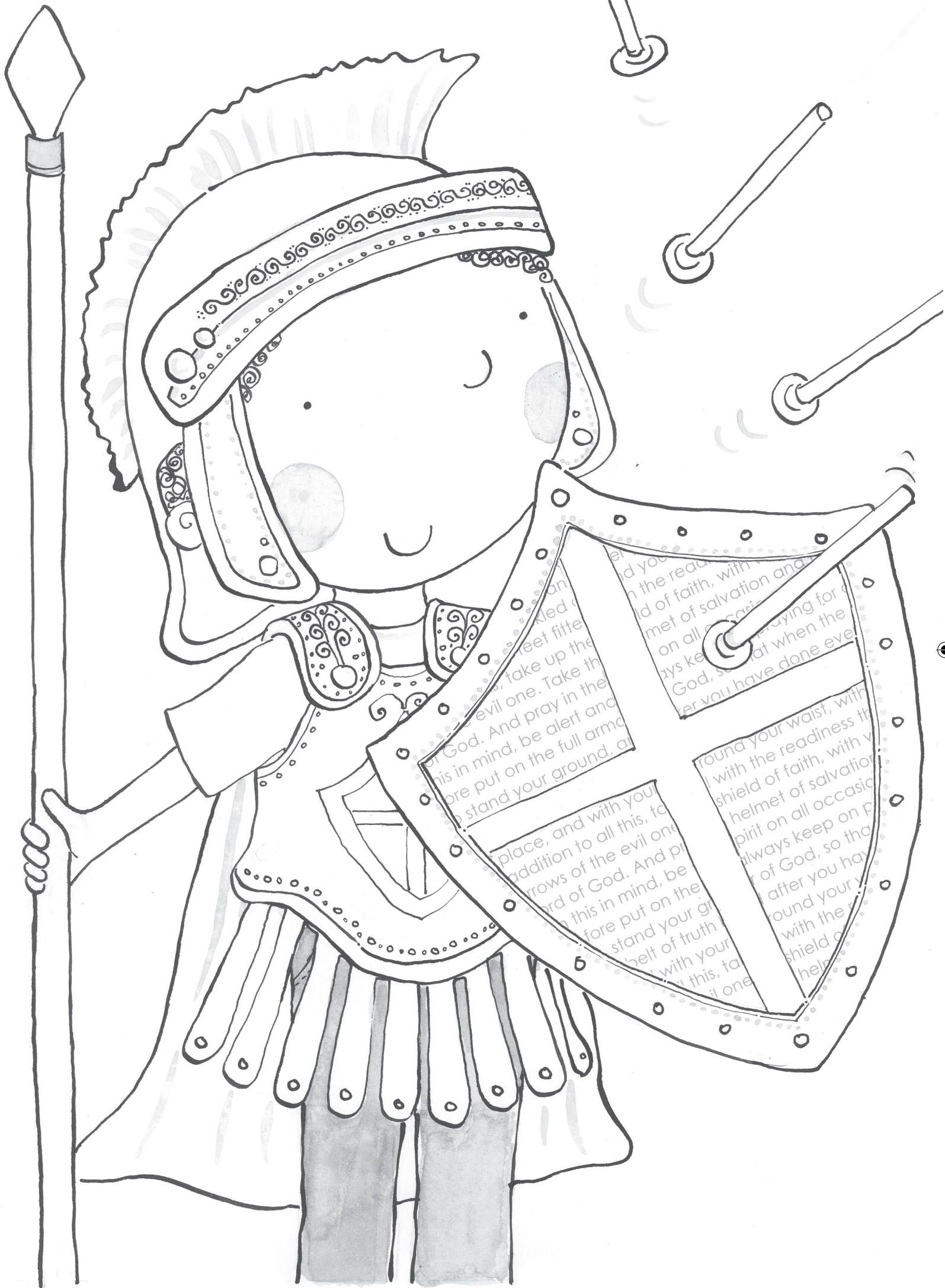


Feet fitted with the Readiness of the Gospel of Peace

Soldiers wore sandals or shoes on their feet; this helped protect their feet on the long journeys they would have to make. Paul wrote about Christians having their feet fitted with the Readiness of the Gospel of Peace. God's people should always be at peace with one another. Peace is also described as one of the fruits of the Spirit. That means that people who love God should have certain things (the fruits) showing in their lives. When Jesus was talking to the people he said that those people who try to make peace are blessed. This was part of the Sermon on the Mount.







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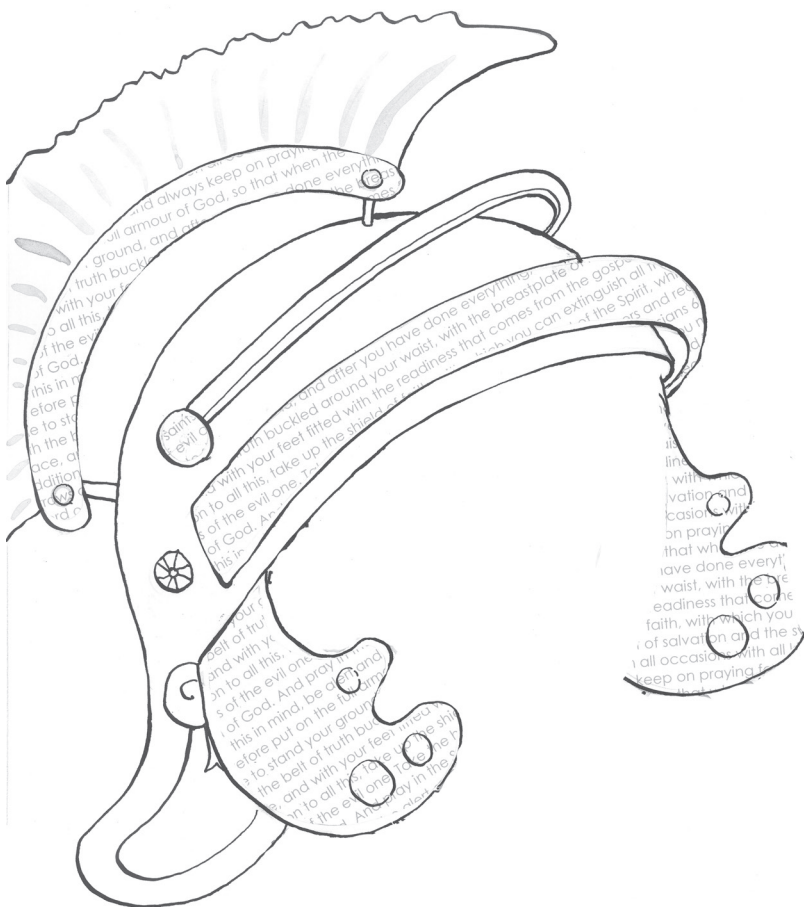
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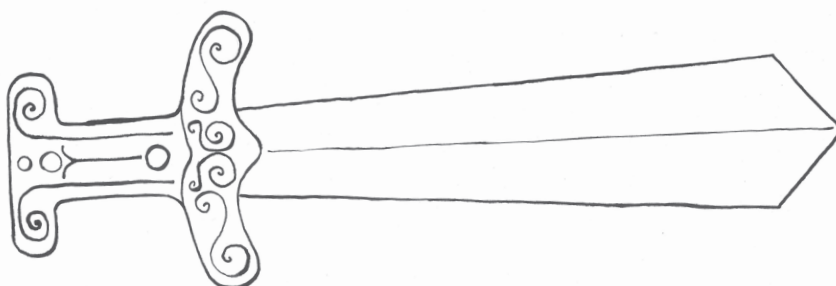
The Helmet of Salvation

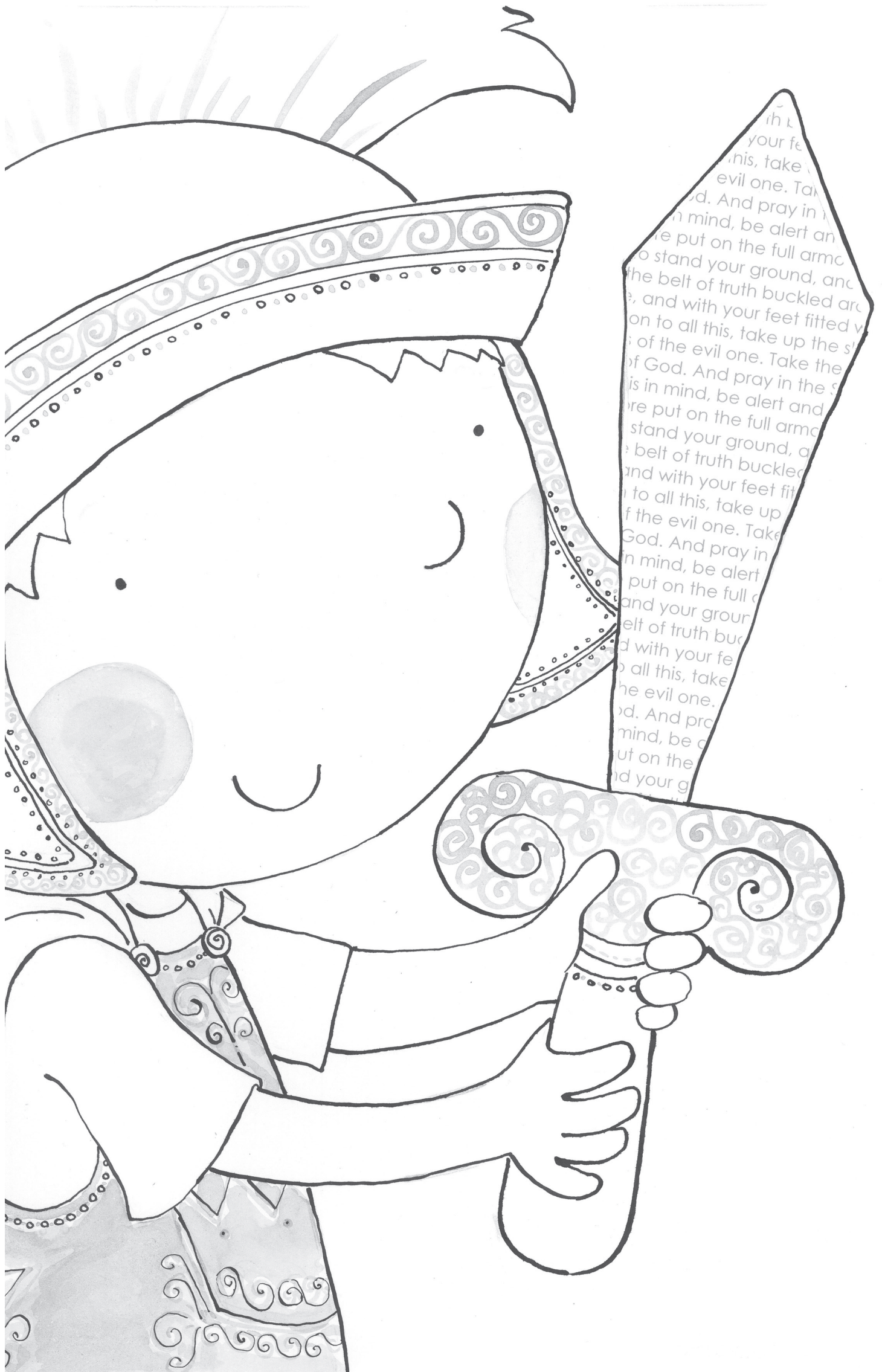
Salvation is the most important thing we should remember in our battle against Satan. Salvation is when we have been saved by Jesus. God sent Jesus to die on the cross for us. In doing this he took the punishment for all our sins - the wrong things we have done. Jesus then rose from the dead and therefore overcame death and Satan. For us to have Salvation we need to ask God's forgiveness for all our sins. We then have to put our trust in him and follow his commands to us. We then belong to Jesus and he will take care of us. He will help us in our battle against Satan.



The Sword of the Spirit

The Bible says that “...the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any two edged sword ...” (Hebrews 4:12) A sword is used by a soldier to fight off his enemies. Paul tells Christians to take the Sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Knowing God’s word- the Bible - helps us to know what is right and wrong. When Jesus was tempted in the wilderness and Satan told him to do things he knew were wrong, Jesus told him what the Bible said. We can use God’s word today to help us do the right thing. This means, we should read the Bible so we know what it says.





Pray on all occasions

To help us in our Christian lives, Paul said that we should pray. Prayer is when we talk to God. Paul wrote to the Ephesians, telling them to pray “ ... on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests.” This means that it does not matter how old we are or where we are - we can and should always pray. When Jesus was on earth, he spent a lot of time praying. Jesus’ followers, who were called the disciples, asked Jesus to teach them how to pray. He taught them what is known as ‘The Lord’s Prayer’. You can find this in Matthew 6.





Be Alert

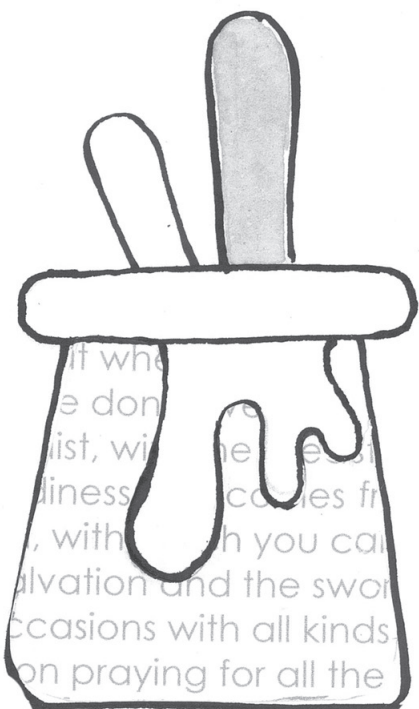
When a soldier is at war, it is important that he is always on the lookout for danger so his enemy does not surprise him and win the battle. After writing to the Ephesian Christians about how they should be ready for their battle with Satan, Paul reminds them that they must be alert. It is important that as Christians we know what God wants us to do and how we should live our lives. As well as knowing what is the right thing, we must always be on the lookout for when Satan tries to trick us.





The Lord is our Fortress

Soldiers often build a fortress to protect themselves and their families. It is sometimes described as a place of refuge. Psalm 18:2-3 says “The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer”. David, who wrote the Psalm, also knew that life for God’s people is sometimes difficult. He knew that God is always there to help and protect his people.





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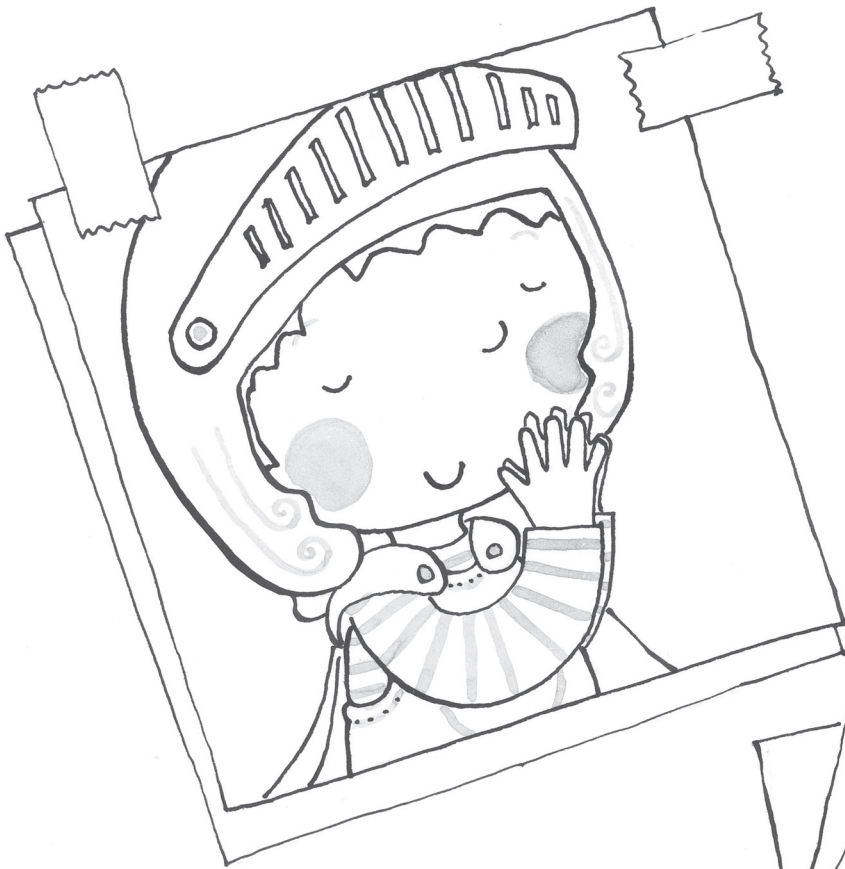
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How can I be ready?

Satan does not like it when people follow Jesus, so he tries to make their lives difficult. In this book we have learnt a lot about battles with Satan. Have you trusted in Jesus? What important things have you learnt? How can you be ready for the battles Christians face?





Now it's your turn...

Draw your own armour of God right here!
Use the pictures in the book to help you.
Don't forget you'll need:

1. A belt of truth
2. A breastplate of righteousness
3. Feet fitted with the readiness of the
gospel of peace
4. A shield of faith
5. A helmet of Salvation
6. A sword of the spirit

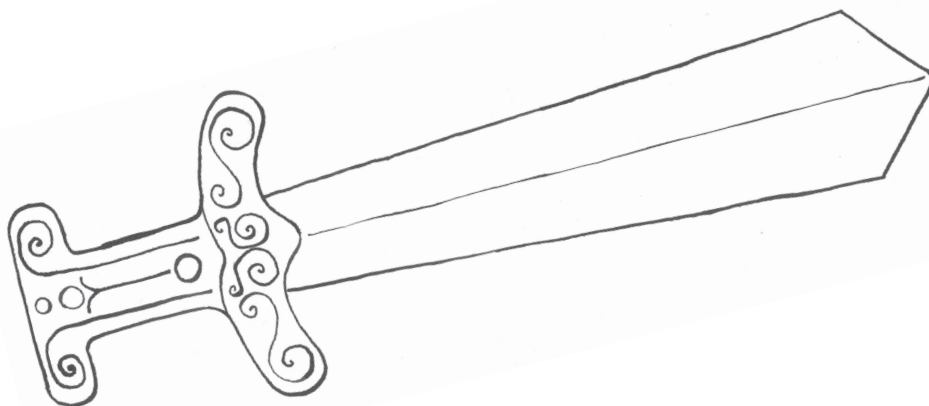




Make your own “Sword of the Spirit” bookmark

Make your own “Sword of the Spirit” bookmark to keep in your Bible. It will remind you that God’s word helps us to do what is right so we can win the battle over evil.

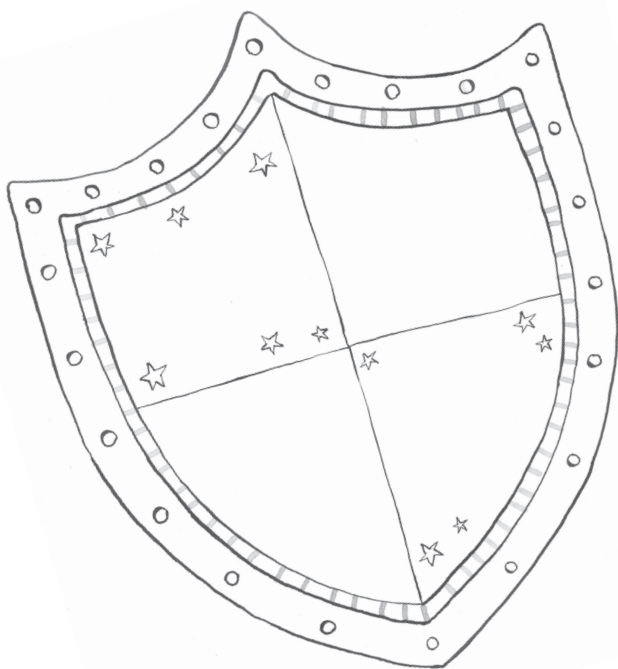
Photocopy or trace the bookmark and stick it onto card. Colour it in using metallic crayons or pens or stick foil onto it to make it look like a real sword. On the back of your bookmark why not write these words from the Bible? “The word of God is living and active. Sharper than any two edged sword.” Hebrews 4:12

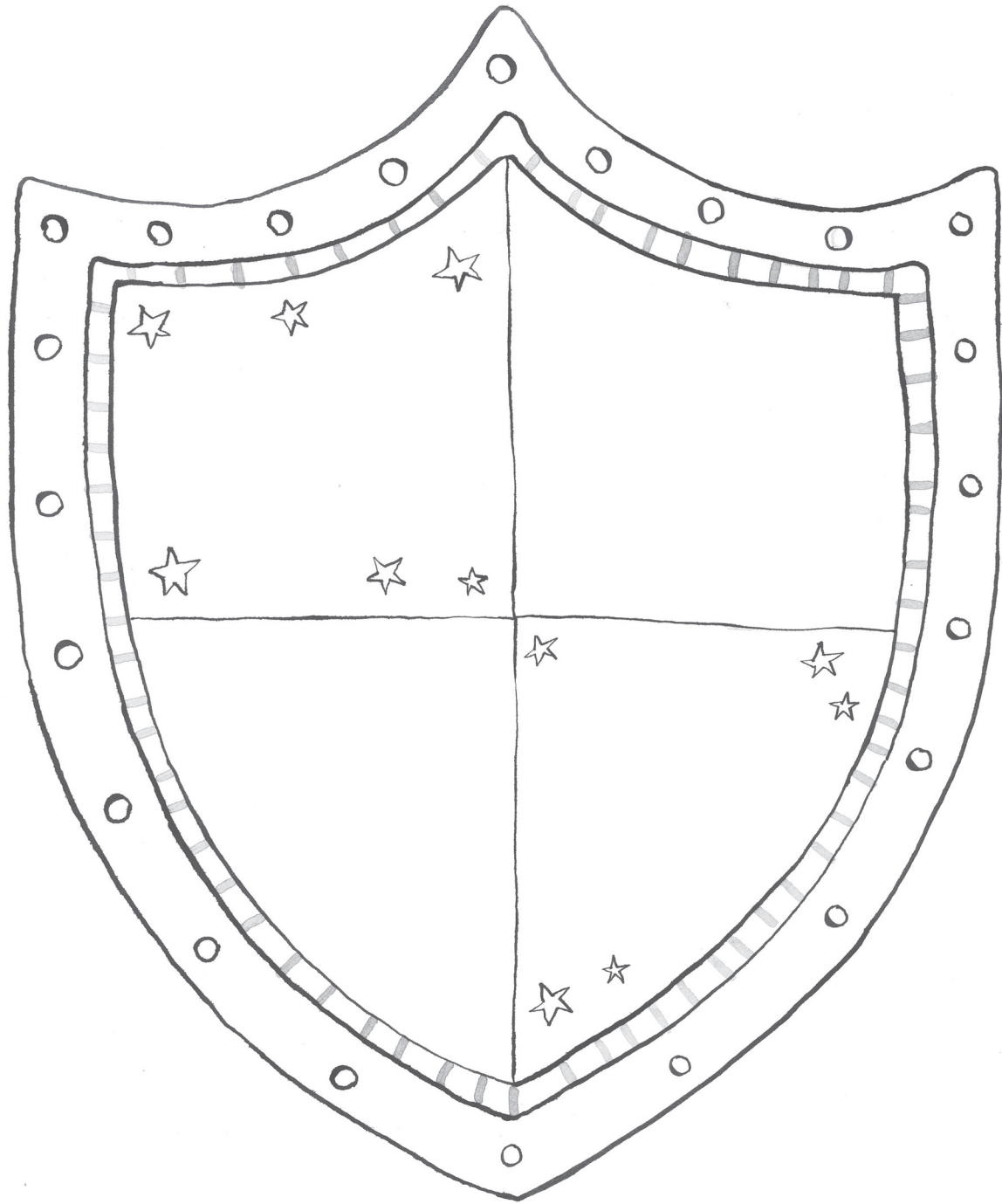




Make your own “Shield of faith” door plaque

Make your own “Shield of Faith” door plaque to show everyone that you are trusting in God. Photocopy or trace the shield and then stick it onto card. Decorate your shield using crayons or felt tip pens. When it’s finished get a grown-up to help you to stick your shield on your door.





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