

ARMOR OF GOD



WEEK 5: SHIELD OF FAITH

When we hear the word "shield," many of us might think of Captain America – the superhero who fights off his enemies using an impressive shield.

In ancient wartime, Roman soldiers used their shields to make a turtle formation. This would provide collective protection from their enemies in all directions on the battlefield. Without it, the soldiers would not have survived for long, and ultimately, would not have won any battles. This particular fighting strategy illustrates how the soldiers depended on each other for safety. They knew that they could not win the battles against their enemies on their own, so they banded together.

This concept can apply to our spiritual life today! As we put our faith in God, we can depend on others who also have faith to help protect us from our spiritual enemy: Satan. Taking up the shield of Faith enables us to pray for one another, to help each other in times of need, and to speak truth when doubts or frustrations arise. Without this shield, we can easily get distracted and lose sight in the battle.

We want to challenge our RBI Austin kids to take up the shield of Faith – not only for their own protection, but also for the protection of those around them! We are in this life together, and we need each other every step of the way. As we put our trust in God, individually and collectively, we become stronger and we are able to endure so much more!

PUT IT IN ACTION

Parents/Guardians:

Ask you kids to think about the functions of a glove in the game of baseball or softball. They could play without a glove, but what would happen if they did?

- Fast pitch: a bruised hand if they caught it without a glove
- Fly ball: a possible blow to the head if they didn't catch it safely with their bare hand
- Tag out: a player they're trying to tag would be safe because they didn't have on a glove

The glove is crucial for their safety, but they have to remember to pick it up! Similarly, we have to remember to take up the shield of Faith – meaning we have to trust God. But what does this mean?

Play a short blindfold game to demonstrate what trust looks like. Blindfold you kid(s) and give simple instructions to walk around the house without running into anything, then ask them to sit down on the floor. Encourage them to trust that it is okay to sit simply because you told them to. Take off their blindfold(s) and explain how, in this manner, God wants us to live our lives fully trusting in him.

MEMORY VERSE OF THE WEEK

"In every situation take the shield of faith, and with it you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one."

— Ephesians 6:16