

Bible adventures



for young readers



God
loves me
28 ways

8



GOD'S WORD FOR ME

"So stand strong, with the belt of truth tied around your waist." *Ephesians 6:14*

STORY TIME

I love to play American football—you know, with all the touchdowns, passing, punting, and tackling each other. It's fun!

One thing is for sure. I always wear my football gear, and I'm very glad I do.

Last week, I was running with the ball as fast as I could, hoping to make a touchdown. One problem: there were a bunch of players from the other team who did not want me to make a touchdown. They came at me from every direction. And they were big!

One boy—his name is Herbie—looks like an eighteen-wheel truck and, believe me, when he tackles you, you know you've been tackled. Nothing can stop this guy! So, here I am, running like my pants are on fire, and out of the corner of my eye, I see Herbie. He's coming in from the side as fast as he can run—which is pretty fast considering he's about the same size as a Toyota.

I know I have two choices: I can slow down so that when Herbie and I slam into each other, it won't hurt as much. Or, I can speed up so that when Herbie and I meet, it might shake me up a little, but I'll be closer to the goal line so my team won't have so far to go to make a touchdown. Decisions, decisions.

Then I remember what I'm wearing. I've got on shoulder pads, knee pads, shin pads, waist pads, neck pad, mouth guard, and a thick helmet complete with face guard. I'm totally protected. As long as I don't go any faster than running speed, and as long as nothing larger than Herbie runs into me, I'll be OK. So, I speed up.

Blam! Herbie—and several of his friends—crash into me at full speed. One moment I'm running downfield. The next moment I'm buried under a pile of huffing and puffing football players. But I'm just fine. I've moved my team closer to the goal and survived yet another midfield meeting with Herbie and friends.

We all get up and stumble back to our huddles, eager to start the next play.

Protection. Did you know that every Christian wears some? That's right. You and I—when we head out for school or play— put on some important protection gear. Why? Because we're not going to run into Herbie out there in the world. We're going to run right into Satan—and Satan makes Herbie look like a puppy dog.

Look up Ephesians 6:14 to 16 in the "Library" and fill in the missing words below. This is our Christian uniform. This is what will keep us from being hurt by Satan.

"So stand strong, with the _____ of _____ tied around your waist. And on your chest wear the _____ of _____ . And on your feet wear the _____ of _____ to help you stand strong. And also use the _____ of _____ . With that you can stop all the burning arrows of the Evil One."

FUN FACTS

SUIT UP:

- A knight's armor was made to protect him in battle. It could easily weigh 60 to 90 pounds and was very difficult to put on.



TOUGH GUY:

- Armadillo is a Spanish word meaning "little armored one" and refers to the bony plates that cover the back, head, legs, and tail. Armadillos are the only living mammals that wear such shells.*

Sources: <http://www.ashevillelist.com/history/knights.htm>.

* <http://www.animals.nationalgeographic.com/animals/mammals/armadillo/>.



MY BIBLE ADVENTURE

The war between us and Satan is called “the great controversy.” Controversy means “dispute” or “fight.” Satan is certainly fighting against God, and he is certainly against the love that God wants to share with everyone on this earth. When did this war begin and how will it end? Let’s find out. Look up the text in the “Library” section and then circle the correct word to answer the question.

What happened in Heaven even before this world was created by God?

- There was **(an earthquake)** **(a flood)** **(a war)** **(a fire)**
(Revelation 12:7)

- Who tricked Eve into eating the forbidden fruit and brought selfishness and sin into this earth?
(lion) **(snake)** **(horse)** **(Adam)**
(Genesis 3:13)

- Who was controlling the animal you chose above?
(God) **(Adam)** **(Eve)** **(Satan)**
(Revelation 12:9)

- What came into the Garden of Eden? We’re fighting it to this day.
(terrorists) **(people)** **(evil)** **(wild animals)**
(Ephesians 6:12, 13)

- Who died so that the entire universe would see how evil Satan is and choose to follow God instead?
(Jesus) **(Adam)** **(Noah)** **(Peter)**
(Romans 3:25)

MY PRAYER

Thank You, Jesus, for helping me fight Satan and for dying on the cross so that everyone can know how evil he is. I choose to live my life with the protection You offer me, so that I can fight against Satan too. Amen.



LIBRARY

- “So stand strong, with the belt of truth tied around your waist. And on your chest wear the protection of right living. And on your feet wear the Good News of peace to help you stand strong. And also use the shield of faith. With that you can stop all the burning arrows of the Evil One” (Ephesians 6:14–16).
- “Then there was war in heaven” (Revelation 12:7).
- “Then the Lord God said to the woman, ‘What have you done?’ She answered, ‘The snake tricked me. So I ate the fruit’” (Genesis 3:13).
- “The giant dragon is that old snake called the devil or Satan. He leads the whole world the wrong way” (Revelation 12:9).
- “Our fight is not against people on earth.... We are fighting against the spiritual powers of evil in the heavenly world. That is why you need to get God’s full armor” (Ephesians 6:12, 13).
- “God gave Jesus as a way to forgive sin through faith. And all of this is because of the blood of Jesus’ death” (Romans 3:25).



MY FRIEND ELLEN WROTE

“Satan and his host are at war with commandment keepers, and will work to bring them into trying positions” (*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 1, p. 356).

When we love and obey God, we become “commandment keepers.” We’re all soldiers in a war against Satan. We need protection. We need to wear God’s armor as we face the troubles and temptations Satan brings into our lives each and every day.



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PENNY FOR YOUR THOUGHTS

What is your favorite part of God’s armor and why?

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