



Sunday, August 22, 2021  
9:15 am

Thirteenth Week After Pentecost  
Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18  
Psalm 34:15-22  
Ephesians 6:10-20  
John 6:56-69

## GATHERING

PRELUDE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

GATHERING HYMN

vs. 1-4

*"You Are the Way"*

GREETING

PRAYER OF THE DAY

CHILDREN'S SERMON

## WORD

A reading from Joshua.

Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. And Joshua said to all the people, "Now therefore revere the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD." Then the people answered, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; and the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God."

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm

- <sup>15</sup>The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous,  
and God's ears are open to their cry.  
<sup>16</sup>**The face of the LORD is against those who do evil,  
to erase the remembrance of them from the earth.**  
<sup>17</sup>The righteous cry, and the LORD hears them  
and delivers them from all their troubles.  
<sup>18</sup>**The LORD is near to the brokenhearted  
and saves those whose spirits are crushed.**  
<sup>19</sup>Many are the troubles of the righteous,  
but the LORD delivers them from every one.  
<sup>20</sup>**God will keep safe all their bones;  
not one of them shall be broken.**  
<sup>21</sup>Evil will bring death to the wicked  
and those who hate the righteous will be punished.  
<sup>22</sup>O LORD, you redeem the life of your servants,  
and those who put their trust in you will not be punished.

A reading from Ephesians.

Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said,] "Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever." He

said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum. When many of his disciples heard it, they said, "This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?" But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, "Does this offend you? Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But among you there are some who do not believe." For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. And he said, "For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father." Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. So Jesus asked the twelve, "Do you also wish to go away?" Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God."

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY                      vs. 1, 2 & 3                      *"Blessed Assurance"*

## APOSTLE'S CREED

With the whole church, Let us confess our faith...

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.\*  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*The response is:*

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

## PEACE

## MEAL

### OFFERING PRAYER

### HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

### GREAT THANKSGIVING

### LORD'S PRAYER

### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

### LAMB OF GOD

### POST COMMUNION BLESSING

## SENDING

### BENEDICTION

SENDING HYMN                      vs. 1, 5 & 6                      *"How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds"*

### DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

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### *Serving in Worship*

Pr. Justin Smoot  
Herb Heyne - Assisting Minister  
Joel Freiberg - Pianist  
Chris Kensmoe - Layreader and Vocalist

### *Technical Support*

Ryan Josiger  
Patrick Kieper  
Joel Freiberg  
Bob Wiederhoeft

### *Holy Communion*

All are welcome. Communion is received together as directed during the service.

### *Altar Flowers*

The flowers in the Sanctuary this morning are given to the glory of God by Ken and Jennifer Luer in honor of their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

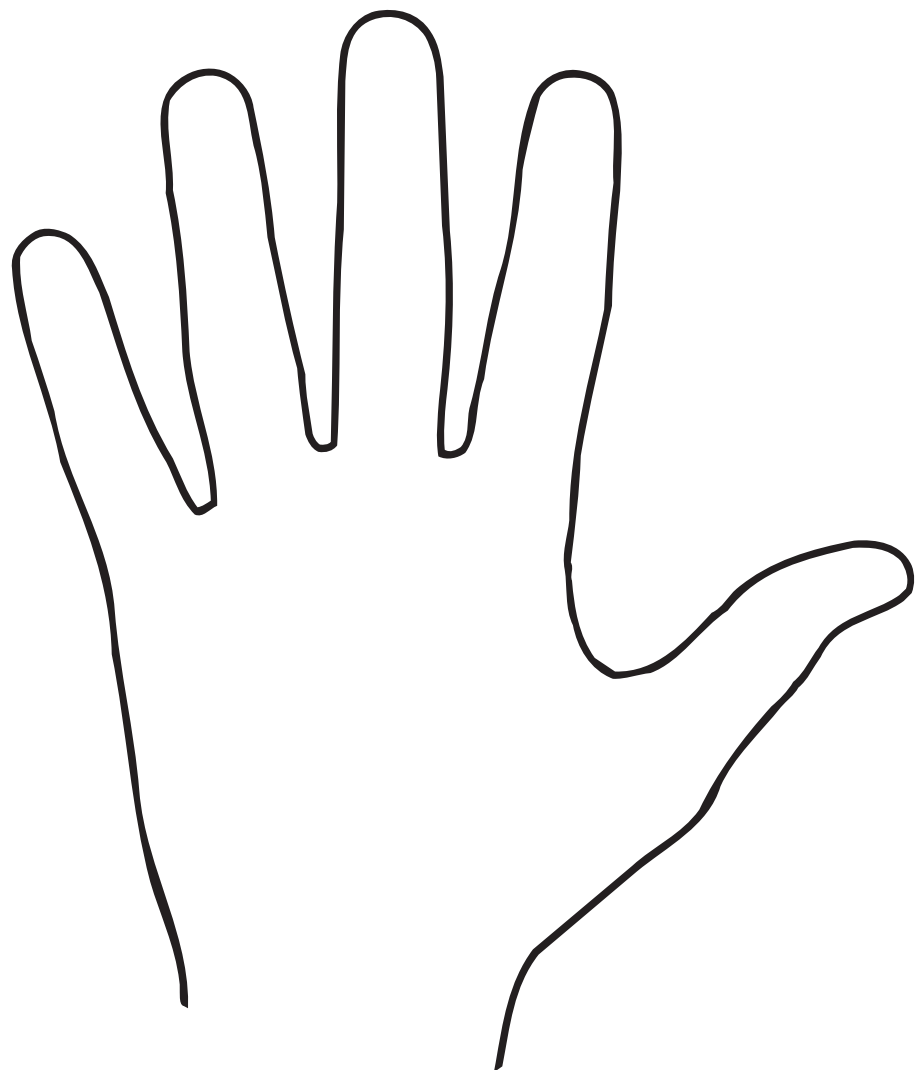
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Talking and listening to God is called praying. Folding our hands can help our bodies feel calm when we pray.

**When do you pray during worship? What do you do with your hands? Trace your praying hand inside this one.**



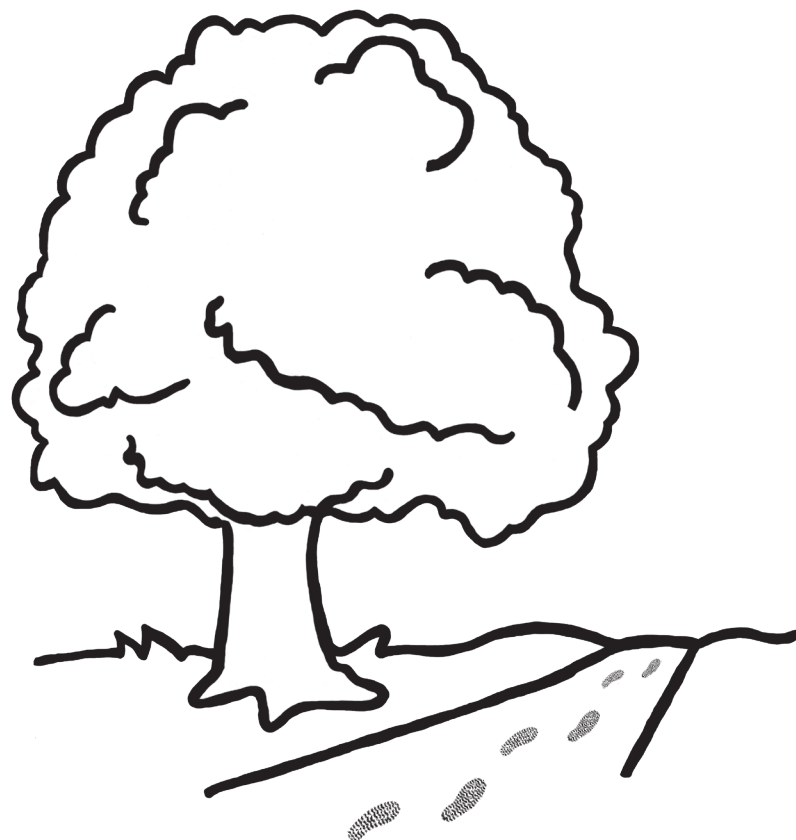
# PRE-READER

Pentecost 13

- Today is the **13<sup>th</sup> Sunday** after Pentecost.
- During the season after Pentecost, we learn about **Jesus' followers**.
- Following Jesus takes us **new places**.

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**Trace your shoe on top of this picture.  
You're a follower of Jesus!**

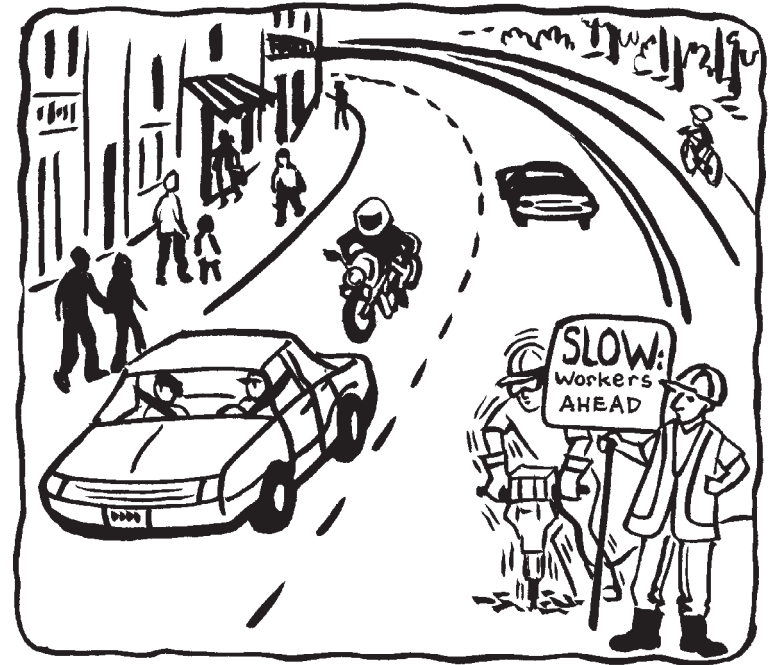




**“Teach us to pray,” they said to Jesus.**

God is with us all the time. We are never alone. God is with us when things are dangerous.

**Circle the things in this picture that people wear to protect themselves from danger.**



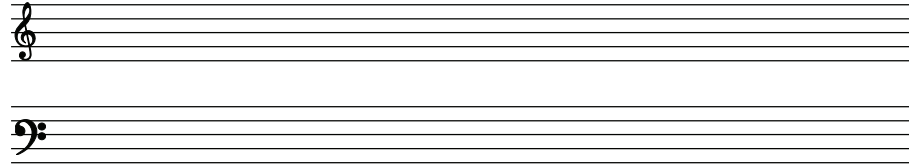
What do you do to protect yourself from danger?

## From Bible to Church

Many of the songs we sing in Church are taken straight from the Bible. Look up the verses to read these songs. What part of the service do you think these songs connect with? Write about it on the musical staves.

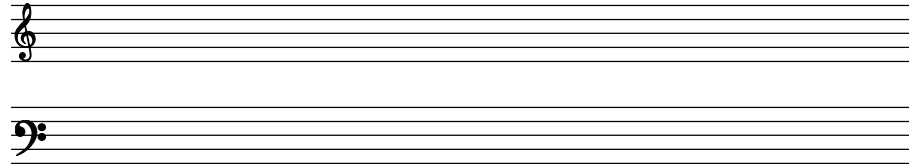
### Magnificat (Mary's Song)

Luke 1:39-55



### Gospel Acclamation

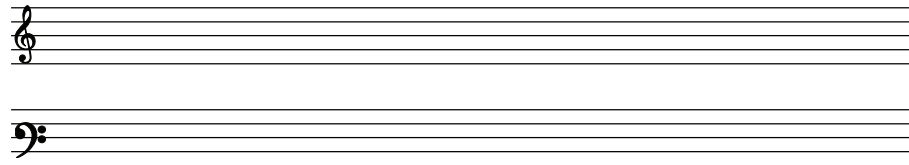
John 6:68



### Nunc Dimittis or Song of Simeon

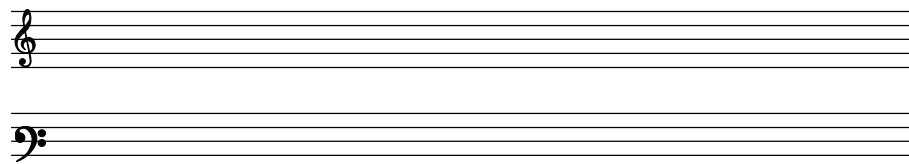
(Nunc Dimittis means "Now Dismiss")

Luke 2:28-32



### Create In Me

Psalm 51



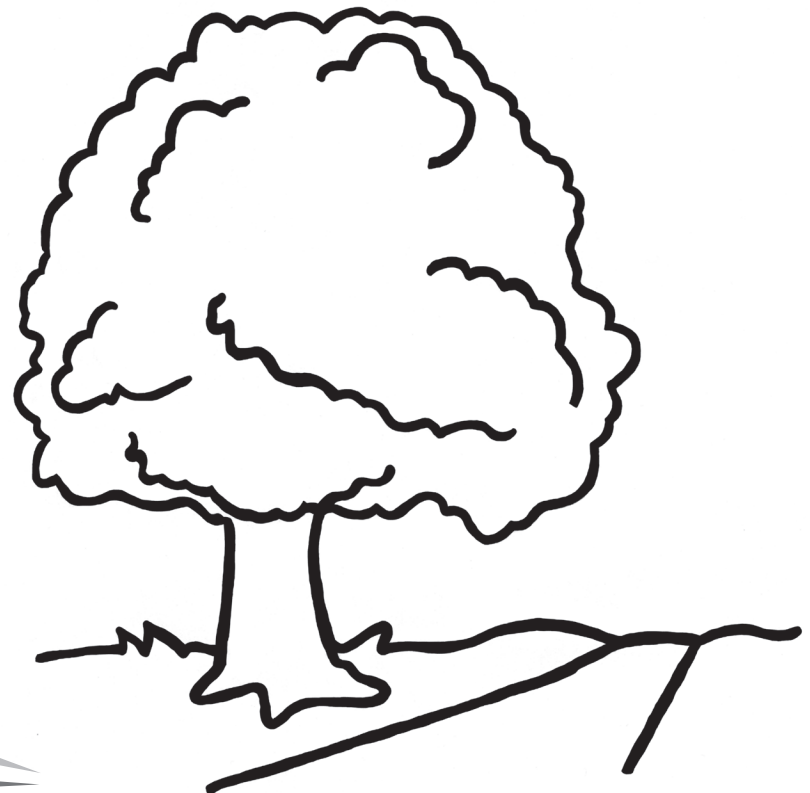
## READER

Pentecost 13

- Today is the **13<sup>th</sup> Sunday** after Pentecost.
- During Pentecost we learn more about **following Jesus**.
- Following Jesus takes us to **new places**.
- Living by Jesus and his words is **not always easy**.

## Gospel To Go

What's the fastest way you can take the Gospel to new places? Rocket Shoes? Electro-Train? Turtle Power? Sketch your speediest design on this road.



# Our Powerful God

God's power is awesome. Paul tells the people of Ephesus to find their strength in God, or "put on the whole armor of God."

Unscramble the words, then draw a line to the picture of each word.



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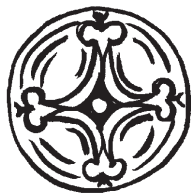
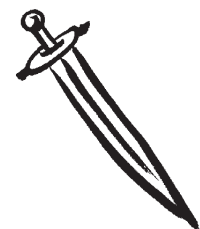
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**Look it Up!**

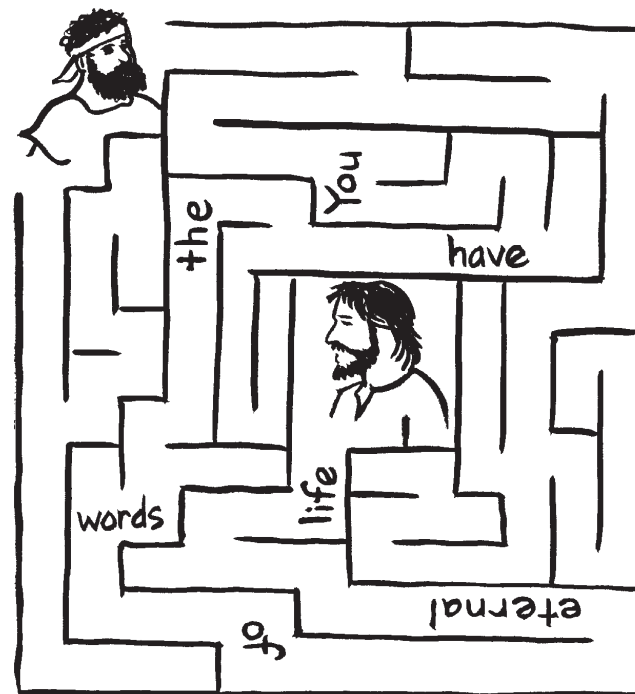
John begins his gospel by talking about the Word.  
See John 1:1.

Complete the maze to finish today's memory verse:

**Memory Verse**



Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom can we go?"



**Bible Tip!**

The books of the Bible that tell the story of Jesus' time on earth are called the Gospels. There are four of them. Can you name them?

AUGUST 22, 2021  
THIRTEENTH SUNDAY  
AFTER PENTECOST



*People respond differently to Jesus.*

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

|           |                   |                                       |
|-----------|-------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Sunday    | John 6:56-71      | Many disciples desert Jesus           |
| Monday    | Joshua 24:1-18    | Many tribes renew the covenant        |
| Tuesday   | Ephesians 6:10-20 | The whole armor of God                |
| Wednesday | Matthew 16:1-12   | Pharisees and Sadducees test Jesus    |
| Thursday  | Luke 7:1-10       | Jesus heals an army officer's servant |
| Friday    | John 3:1-21       | Jesus and Nicodemus                   |
| Saturday  | Psalms 34:15-22   | The Lord is with you                  |
| Sunday    | Mark 7:1-23       | Authentic faith                       |

### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*Simon Peter answered [Jesus], "Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God." John 6:68-69 (NRSV)*

### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

#### **A Prayer for the Week:**

Almighty and living God, give us faith to trust in you that we may overcome disbelief with faith, fear with hope, and indifference with love through Christ. Amen.

#### **Mealtime Prayer:**

Dear God, may we humbly receive this food with thanksgiving, believing that all good things come from you. Amen.

#### **A Blessing to Give:**

May the one who redeems your life give you peace and joy.



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AUGUST 22, 2021  
HYMN OF THE WEEK  
*Gather Us In*



### WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

### CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- In an era of deliberate misinformation, what is something you hold on to without wavering?
- What is something you have heard that is hard to believe?
- What does it mean to you that Peter said that Jesus is the Holy One of God?

### DEVOTIONS

*Read:* John 6:56-71.

It is difficult to have a conversation about Jesus without a strong reaction. Many of these reactions are experienced in our text from John 6. Some people hear the news of Jesus as the bread of life and complain that the message is difficult or offensive. Others simply experience disbelief. Some reject the message of Jesus and others actively pursue a path of betrayal. In the midst of all of these naysayers, Peter states words the church has sung throughout its history: "Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God" (vv. 68-69). If truth be told, we have likely found ourselves in most—if not all—of those various groups. Such is the humble and challenging life of faith. At different moments of our lives, we, too, respond differently to the message and the presence of Jesus in our lives. When have you or someone you know sounded like a naysayer to Jesus as the Holy One of God? What moves us from disbelief to hope and from rejection to trust?

*Pray:* Dear God, give us hearts of love and faith that dare to trust that Jesus is the bread of life, the Holy One of God, who brings to us the words of eternal life. Amen.

### SERVICE

Paul writes in Ephesians 6:18, "Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication." Supplication means to pray for God's help. We can serve others by praying for them. Is there someone you know who is in need of God's help? How can you pray for them this week?

### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

We wear a seat belt in the car and a helmet when riding a bike to protect us from something bad happening. Ephesians 6:10-17 tells us that God helps protect us. The whole armor of God provides truth, righteousness, peace, faith, and salvation. The sword is the word of God. Draw a picture of a sword, color it, and cut it out. Use the sword as a bookmark in your Bible and as a reminder of the importance of God's word each time you read scripture.



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: [www.milestonesministry.org](http://www.milestonesministry.org)