



Week Six

7/12 to 7/18

Verse to memorize this week:

In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.

Ephesians 6:16 NIV



Devotional

In ancient times, soldiers would rub oil on their shields. The oil protected the leather and made metal slippery so enemy blows would slide off. The oil would also reflect the sunlight, blinding the enemy! In the same way, when we use our shield of faith, we reflect the Son (Jesus). Last week we defined faith. Faith is believing, accepting, and acting upon what God has said. James 2:17 says that faith without works is dead. How good is a soldier who has the most impressive, flashy armor if he never goes to battle? Or imagine a soldier who runs onto the battlefield without a shield or sword...that's not going to go well.

So how do we keep our shield of faith oily and ready for battle? We have faith in God's Word, his love for us, and his power. We have faith that Jesus died on the cross to forgive our sins and was raised to life again. We have faith in the presence and power of the Holy Spirit working in and through us. James 1:2-3 says to have joy when you face trouble because it is a chance for your faith to grow! Remember, God does not get upset when we ask for help. The Bible tells us over and over to call on him, and he will answer!

Define

This week's definition: WORD OF GOD

The Bible describes the "Word of God" in a few different ways. John chapter 1 says that **JESUS** is the Word of God who came into the world he created as a human. The **BIBLE** is the Word of God. Hebrews 4:12 says it is sharper than any sword (more on that next week). Finally, the Holy Spirit speaks or **PROPHECIES** through us to build up and encourage the church (1 Corinthians 14:3).

Pray

1 John 5:14-15 says, "This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us, we know that we have what we asked of him."

Dear Jesus, thank you for being such a good Savior. You make it easy to love and trust you. Help me to walk by faith, not by fear or apart from you. Help me to remember your thoughts towards me are good and you want to help me. Help me to share this Good News with the people you put in my life. In Jesus name, amen.

Journal

Jesus modeled perfect faith in God's plan when he chose to die on the cross even when it was hard. What is one way you can model faith this week?

Jesus said that if we have the faith of a tiny seed, we can move mountains. What is something BIG you're trusting God to help you or your family with?