

Ephesians 610-17 New International Version

The Armor of God

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. 11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. ¹³Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. 14 Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, ¹⁵ and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷ Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Shoot for Heaven, and you will get Earth Thrown in. Seek Earth and you will get neither. CS Lewis



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Wisdom

I need to make wise choices!

Discover God's unique plan for my life.

"I can do all things..." Phil 4:13

Faith

I can trust God no matter what.

God's presence is my greatest strength.

"I can do all things..." Phil 4:13

Friendship

I will treat others as I want to be treated.

Respect is the key to healthy relationships

"Friends come and friends go, but a true friend sticks by you like family."

Proverbs 18:24

"Christians are made, not born."

Tertullian



1. It's a God thing.

"The most important thing is not the work I do for God. The most important thing is to make God the most important thing. The impact God has planned for us doesn't occur when we're pursuing impact. It occurs when we're pursuing God."

2. Our Focus is on the Gospel.

It is all too easy to get caught up in elaborate plans, dramatic scenery, curriculum, relationships, etc. Are all those important? They are absolutely critical!! But if they don't ultimately lead to a focus on the Gospel, none of them really mean a whole lot.

3. Alignment matters.

Children's ministry is carefully & intentionally aligned with the church's vision of Intentional Christian Discipleship. We are an integral part of the overall strategy and team.

4. Stories tell the vision.

Ally Evans: There are 2 Steps to Growing Your Kid min: Create a culture of invitation & share stories all the time. This is why we take pictures, create videos and celebrate accomplishments. They are part of our story of faith.

5. Families are engaged.

Practical equipping is the rule. Service opportunities are offered. Spiritual formation is primarily about what parents are and do, not what happens at church. Communication is excellent. These types of things are critical.

6. Calendars are clipped.

Our success is **NOT** measured on the number of activities we can crunch into the children's ministry calendar. Overextended and exhaustion among our families is an epidemic. In the case of Children's Ministry, *less is more*. We're doing less, focusing more and driving commitment in a few rather than guilt over the many.